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Beauty
triumphs in
'New World',
page 11



The Flat Hat

JANUARY 27, 2006 VOL.95, NO.39

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY SINCE 1911

<http://flathat.wm.edu>

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Check out hip Williamsburg
apartments, page 8

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Men's and women's tennis
each start off with opening
season wins, page 13

Students take budget fight to Richmond

BY JONATHAN SEIDEN
THE FLAT HAT

At 6 a.m. Jan. 25, over 70 students boarded two buses bound for Richmond to meet with members of the General Assembly. This annual excursion, "Road to Richmond," takes students to the state capital in order to lobby on behalf of the College.

The advocacy trip highlights the College's concerns and appeals to various Virginia legislative members. According to senior Steven Popp, student intern at the office of public affairs, the students lobbied for more competitive educator salaries, increased financial aid and greater base adequacy funding.

Students were treated to a catered breakfast upon arrival at the Library of Virginia. Popp said that students were able to meet with various legislators, state officials and College administrators.

College President Gene Nichol spoke briefly during the breakfast, making no secret of the fact that the students present were lobbying largely for more funding for the College. The central message of his speech presented the necessity of passing the Higher Education Restructuring Act.

"We need your help and support to ensure the final passage of



JONATHAN SEIDEN • THE FLAT HAT

President Gene Nichol speaks with General Assemblyman Del Hamilton about higher education. Nichol praised the students for their efforts although they will no longer be students by the time their goals are realized.

the Higher Education Restructuring Initiative," he said to the legislators. He continued by thanking the GA members for their support and praising the students in attendance for their devotion to the College's cause.

"The financial aid they ask you to support, they will never receive; the buildings they ask you to build, they will never occupy," Nichol said. "They are the future, the promise of a closer and more engaged citizenry."

After the breakfast and meeting with senators and delegates, about half of the students returned to the College. According to Popp, the remaining students walked to the

See BUDGET + page 3

College combats sexual assault

BY JAMES DAMON
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

At a press conference Tuesday, Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler and Director of University Relations Bill Walker met with members of the media to discuss changes in the College's approach to rape and sexual misconduct. The conference came after Monday's e-mail from Sadler, which revealed that a female student at the College reported being sexually assaulted last week, the fifth such report since October of last year.

Sadler and College President Gene Nichol announced new strategies to prevent sexual assault and support victims in the e-mail Monday. These changes include: hiring a new full-time sexual assault educator; implementing new information programs, especially those utilizing interacting technology; a campus police grant proposal for increased training in sexual assault investigation; and the creation of a peer advocacy program.

Sadler and Walker said little about the most recent case of on campus sexual misconduct. Ac-

cording to the Monday e-mail, the rape occurred Jan. 17 in the fraternity complex. The incident was reported to the College by a

See ASSAULT + page 3

Recent reports of sexual assault

Oct. 28 — A former student allegedly raped another student at an off-campus party. The criminal charges were dropped Jan. 4 due to insufficient evidence.

Nov. 14 — A student reported being raped by a non-student acquaintance in a Cabell apartment.

Nov. 29 — A student was reportedly raped at knife-point in her apartment at Governor's Square.

Dec. 2 — A student reported being raped by an acquaintance in a residence hall.

Jan. 17 — A student reported being raped by another student in the fraternity complex.

SA confirms officers

BY HEATHER KEELON
THE FLAT HAT

The Student Assembly Senate confirmed two new members to the SA Review Board Tuesday night to replace the seats vacated by juniors Patrick Vora and Mike Golub, both of whom resigned to study abroad this semester. The review board is responsible for assessing the legality of actions committed by the SA. It is also the body that settles disputes that arise in elections.

To fill the first vacated spot, SA President junior Ryan Scofield appointed senior Matthew Wigginton, who served in the senate from 2003 to 2005, including a term as chair of the senate.

"[Wigginton] has an extensive history in the Student Assembly," Scofield said. "He has a lot of know-how ... and seemed right for the job."

The senate asked Wigginton why he wanted the job.

"Last year, I decided maybe I wanted to serve in another branch of student government," Wigginton said. "We started out my first year of senate dealing with a new constitution, and we went through the review board a couple times and saw how that worked out. I feel like I would be a pretty good addition."

Due to his previous involvement with the SA, impartiality was also called into question. Wigginton, however, stated that "a lot of the people that served with me have come and gone ... I've had a semester away from the SA — took a step back. I don't see myself having any trouble being an impartial justice."

Wigginton was unanimously confirmed to the position by the senate.

The second nominee was sophomore "Wireless" William Angley, who unsuccessfully ran for secretary of the Class of 2008 last year and has been serving as an assistant to the executive.

"We put him on projects when we needed someone very thorough," Scofield said. "We could not find anyone who would be less objective, impartial ... motivated and ambitious." Angley's role in the executive included attending all cabinet meetings and researching campus safety issues, which was used by the SA's department of health and safety.

When asked why he was interested in the position by Sophomore Sen. Brett Phillips, Angley said that "it's a role where I can serve the school effectively. I understand its importance, and I'm willing to do it. I gain a real opportunity to work for students."

Angley cited his extensive knowledge of the SA's code, a skill he says is essential for a review board member to possess. He describes the need for experts on the code as "grave and currently unmet."

Angley was confirmed by the senate.

Freshman Sen. Matt Beato also introduced his "Williamsburg Voter Registration and Enfranchisement Insurance Act," which is intended to create a campaign to register off-campus students to vote in the City of Williamsburg. The bill was sent back to committee for revision and is scheduled for debate next week.



ALICE HAHN • THE FLAT HAT

Appointing sophomore William Angley to the Review Board, SA President junior Ryan Scofield commended Angley's dedication.

CIRQUE DU HEBEI



ANDY DESOTO • THE FLAT HAT

The Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats, one of the premier Chinese acrobatic troupes in the world, performed a show for students and the community Wednesday night in Phi Beta Kappa Hall. The troupe, from Cangzhou in the Hebei province of China, also came to the College two years ago.

Washington program '30 years in the making'

BY MAXIM LOTT
THE FLAT HAT

Next fall will mark the debut of William and Mary in Washington, a new semester-long program at the College in which students will work, live and study in the nation's capital. Internships are the primary focus, but participating students will also take two courses with a College professor in Washington, D.C., earning eight college credits.

The inspiration for the project came from several College administrators, including Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler, who said at a student interest meeting Jan. 23rd that the basic idea for the project has been "30 years in the making." Adam Anthony, director of the College's Washington office, added that the

resources and opportunities of the capital had, until now, been largely untapped. He said that the College has an influential alumni network in D.C., which may help students find internships.

In the past, the College has granted course credit for internships on a case-by-case basis. Anthony said that these internships were often only loosely tied to a specific course or major.

"We started with the idea of creating something that was a substantial notch more intellectual and educationally more ambitious and justified," Anthony said.

Most of the Jan. 23 interest meeting was devoted to student questions pertaining to program costs and ways to obtain internships. The College claims it will help students and work with them to find an appropriate internship.

College students will have an advantage because they will be applying for internships in the fall, a time when students from other colleges are in school.

The program is subsidized by the College and carries a \$500 program fee in addition to tuition. Rent is \$850 per month, which is "well below market price," Anthony added. The house where students will stay is practically on Capitol Hill, in sight of one of the Senate office buildings.

The theme for the upcoming semester, on which the courses and available internships will be based, is "Courting Politics, Politicking the Courts: The Intersections Between Law and Politics." If the fall program is a success, it will be extended to the spring semester, and a new theme will be chosen each time it is offered.

Future program themes will most likely include departments and majors outside of government and the humanities.

College President Gene Nichol indicated his support of the new program in a Dec. 22 e-mail to students. In the e-mail, he called the program "an exciting endeavor ... This will be as good as its name." Anthony said that, had the President disagreed with the program, it would not have started.

The administration said it hopes to enroll about 20 students in the program for the upcoming fall semester, and applications will be accepted until Feb. 14. Preference will be given to upperclassmen because they will not have another chance to enter the program, but any student may apply. For more information, students can visit the program's website at www.wm.edu/wmindc.

Inside this week's issue



Colonial Williamsburg is offering two students a chance to ditch campus dorms and spend the next two semesters living in a tourist paradise. See COLONIAL, page 8.



Sinfonicon shines with admirable Americana of rambling "Ragtime." See SINFONICON, page 11.



A recent column suggested that freshman don't care for the College. However, they have a vision ... and they are changing the face of the College as we know it. See LAZY, page 7.



The College allots almost \$1 million for sports teams to travel this year. Find out how it's spent. See TEAMS, page 13.



If you've got questions about our Online section, we've got answers. Visit The Flat Hat online and click Resources then FAQ to view the new Frequently Asked Questions page. See http://flathat.wm.edu/

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The Flat Hat 'Stabilitas et Fides'

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The Flat Hat wishes to correct any facts printed incorrectly. Corrections may be submitted by e-mail to the section editor in which the incorrect information was printed. Requests for corrections will be accepted at any time.

Beyond the 'Burg

PENTAGON LABELS SEVERAL UNIVERSITIES SECURITY THREATS

(U-WIRE) BOSTON — According to the Pentagon, several universities in the United States may pose a danger to national security. On-campus protests against military recruitment landed eight national universities, including New York University and University of California-Berkeley, on a Pentagon watch list for being threats to national security. In mid-December, MSNBC released the list from the Department of Defense database that cited various domestic "threats," including the college campus demonstrations. The list, which was part of a 400-page document, recorded more than 1,500 domestic occurrences over the past 10 months ... According to the document, all of the campus protests were aimed at campus recruiters and were held at NYU, SUNY Albany, Southern Connecticut State University, City College of the City University of New York, Berkeley, University of California at Santa Cruz, a University of Wisconsin campus and "a New Jersey university." "We were surprised, to say the least, that our university was on the list," Josh Taylor, a New York University spokesperson, said. ... NYU protesters' opposition to the Solomon Amendment and various campuses anti-war demonstrations are two of many global activities that the Pentagon monitors in the name of national security, according to a Pentagon spokesperson. "This counterterrorism and surveillance are across the board," a Pentagon spokesperson said. "This is not just about antiwar protests, and it is not targeted against one type of threat — this is a broad issue." Compiled by the Pentagon's Counterintelligence Field Activity, the record contains "dots of information" provided by worldwide law enforcers, intelligence groups, security agencies and citizens ... the spokesman said. "These dots are put in to try to 'connect the dots' before another major terrorist attack occurs." After Sept. 11, 2001, the Department of Defense developed a database of "unfiltered" threat information called the Threat and Local Observation Notice, or TALON. This system was designed to assemble, process and analyze suspicious activity reports to identify invisible terrorist activity. ... — By Meg Rafferty, The Daily Free Press (Boston U.) — compiled by michael j. schobel

WEEKEND WEATHER

Friday



High 52°
Low 34°

Saturday



High 60°
Low 39°

Sunday



High 58°
Low 51°

Source: www.weather.com

POLICE BEAT



Tuesday, Jan. 17 — A student reported that his bicycle was stolen at Swem library before winter break. The bike was valued at \$300. 1 — A head resident reported that he smelled marijuana smoke from outside a

room in Dinwiddie Hall. An officer arrived and arrested two students in the room for alleged possession of marijuana. 2 — A student reported that her bicycle was stolen at Madison Hall. 3

— A wallet was reported stolen at Fauquier Hall. The estimated value of the wallet and its contents was \$425. 2 — An individual reported that a student was sleeping on a plastic bag under the round tables outside the University Center. The student was referred to administration for alleged underage possession of alcohol and for allegedly being drunk in public. 4 Wednesday, Jan. 18 — A piece of artwork with an estimated value of \$500 was reportedly stolen from the University Center. 4 Thursday, Jan. 19 — A female student reported that she had possibly been sexually assaulted at the fraternity complex. 5 Friday, Jan. 20 — An officer reported that skateboarders were trespassing near Phi Beta Kappa Hall. The officer advised them of the College's policy on skateboarding. 6 Saturday, Jan. 21 — A student was arrested on Wake Drive for alleged underage possession of alcohol and allegedly being drunk in public. 7 — An area director reported that a student was being disorderly and appeared to be intoxicated at Cabel Hall. The student was gone when officers arrived. 8 Sunday, Jan. 22 — A caller reported a loud party at the Ludwell Apartments. Upon arrival, the officer reported that there were more than 12 people in a room. The guests reportedly complied with the officer and left the room. 9 — compiled by austin wright

STREET BEAT :

How much did you spend on books for this semester?



This semester I've spent more than any other: \$523. But I'm taking two senior seminars.

♦ Lauren Bell, junior



Only \$105. I was surprised.

♦ Laura Tourtelotte, freshman



Only \$10, because I'm borrowing from the library and from friends.

♦ Melissa Benavidez, freshman



Not that much ... just under \$300.

♦ Bryan Schillinger, freshman

— photos and interviews by Emmy Fritz-Krockow

College mourns alumna’s death

By Michael J. Schobel
Flat Hat News Editor

The College is mourning the loss of alumna Lauren Burns, ’05, who died Jan. 8 from head wounds sustained in a car accident the previous night. The former biology and environmental science concentrator had been enrolled in a one-year environmental education program at the Teton Science Schools in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

According to the Jan. 9 online edition of the Jackson Hole Daily, the accident occurred under snowy conditions the evening of Jan. 7 while Burns was driving home from her part-time job at Corral West Ranchwear.

While driving up a hill on Highway 89, her Ford Explorer lost traction due to slick roads and veered into the southbound lane. Her vehicle was then struck by large pickup truck, which was unable to stop in time. She was flown to the Idaho Regional Medical Center where she was pronounced dead.

According to Burns’ parents, Burns had an avid interest in wildlife, particularly for birds; her passion manifested itself while at the College.

As an environmental science and biology student, Burns did research on the efficacy of using video programming to train birds that are to be released back into



COURTESY PHOTO • UNIVERSITY RELATIONS
Lauren Burns loved wildlife, particularly birds. While studying at the College, she researched new tools for re-releasing birds into the wild.

the wild. She was also president of the equestrian club.

Following graduation, Burns moved to Wyoming last August in order to participate in a graduate-level teaching program focused on environmental science and the natural sciences at the Teton Science Schools.

She spent the fall leading geology hikes at Grand Teton National Park. Burns had hoped to complete her master’s degree at the University of Idaho.

Burns’ colleagues at the Teton

Science Schools said they remembered her as a kind-hearted person who was well liked by her students and peers.

“[She was] the most positive person on campus,” Polly Cooper, Burns’ faculty mentor, told the Daily. “She was so sincere in her efforts as a teacher, always thinking about how best to share her experiences and love for natural history.”

She is survived by her parents, Thomas and Nancy, and her 19-year-old brother Timmy.

‘Hotel Rwanda’ inspiration advocates peaceful dialogue

By Austin Wright
Flat Hat Insight Editor

Paul Rusesabagina, who saved the lives of more than 1,200 people during the 1994 Rwandan genocide, spoke to a sell-out crowd Jan. 23 at 8 p.m. in Phi Beta Kappa Hall. Rusesabagina advocated spreading a message of peace in his speech, which emphasized ignorance and hatred as the problem, and education and dialogue as the answer.

Rusesabagina inspired the award-winning film “Hotel Rwanda,” which was shown in the University Center Commonwealth Auditorium Jan. 20 and 21.

Last year, Rusesabagina was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America’s most prestigious civilian award.

He created the Hotel Rwanda Rusesabagina Foundation, which provides support for children orphaned and women abused during the genocide, and this year he plans to release the book “An Ordinary Man,” which chronicles his memories of the genocide.

Following the speech, signed copies of the book were available for pre-order.

After the crowd greeted him with a standing ovation.

“I never believe in a gun as a solution,” he said. “The best solution is dialogue — through dialogue we can do much more.”

— PAUL RUSESABAGINA,
PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM
WINNER

During the genocide, which left an estimated one million Rwandans dead over the course of 100 days, he turned a hotel where he previously worked, the Mille Collines Hotel, into a refugee camp for Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

At first, he only meant to save his family. But soon after the killings began, 26 strangers showed up at his house, searching for protection.

“My family — we used to be six people,” he said. “By that time we were 32.”

When militiamen discovered that Rusesabagina was offering protection to Tutsis, they gave him a gun and told him to kill his family and the 26 strangers.

Rusesabagina started a “kind of dialogue” with the militiamen that lasted two hours. They eventually came to an agreement: instead of killing his family, he would drive the militiamen to the hotel and give them money.

“All along the streets there were so many dead bodies,” he said. “Some of them missing their heads, others their bellies open, some mutilated.”

Once at the hotel, he said, the militiamen left with the money Rusesabagina promised them. He then

opened the doors to other refugees, until more than 1,200 people were living there with no water or electricity.

At one point, he was given the opportunity to leave the hotel and evacuate to a safer area, but he knew that he would have to leave many of the people at the hotel behind.

If he left them there to die, he “would never be a free man,” he said. “I would always be a prisoner of myself.”

After 70 days, the entire hotel was evacuated, and the refugees were transported to an area occupied by the Tutsi rebels. Due to Rusesabagina’s courage and generosity, they escaped death.

But genocide in Africa did not stop with the end of the Rwandan genocide.

“We have changed the players, but the rules of the game remain the same — killings, everything,” he said.

The international community turned its back on Rwanda during the genocide, Rusesabagina said, and continues to turn its back on Africa now.

About four million civilians have died in the Congo as “the world stands by, watches, and doesn’t say a word,” he said.

Last year he took a trip to Darfur, Sudan, where he found that 3,000 villages had been destroyed.

Before Rusesabagina’s speech, junior Sulaiman Bah spoke to the crowd about Students Taking Action Now: Darfur.

Darfur, he said, is a region of the Sudan the size of Texas where war broke out between government militias and rebels seeking independence.

Four hundred thousand people have died in Darfur at the hands of the Janjaweed, and another 2.5 million are currently displaced due to the violence of the event, according to the web site www.savedarfur.org.

The goals of STAND, he said, are to get a multinational peacekeeping force to protect the civilians in Darfur, adopt refugee camps, send cameras to report what is happening in Darfur and pressure the United States government to put sanctions on the Sudan.

“Now it is time to say ‘not on my watch,’ and do something to pressure our government and other international governments to intervene,” Bah said. “Please, for the sake of victims of Rwanda that we couldn’t help, and victims of Darfur that we can help, for the sake of history and future generations, stand up against genocide with your student voices and your human selves.”

140 General Assembly Members are invited.

“This year’s exceptionally high turnout represents the student body’s firm commitment to improving our already outstanding reputation,” Student Assembly President junior Ryan Scofield said, according to the office of the Student Assembly.

Popps echoed this sentiment. “I’m happy to say that Road to Richmond 2006 was a smashing success,” he said. “The students who woke up before dawn to board the buses were by far the most important part.”

Construction of new science center to begin next month

By Brian Mahoney
The Flat Hat

Construction of the College’s new Integrated Science Center will begin Feb. 10. The four-year, \$54.7 million project will renovate and expand the outdated Millington and Rogers Halls, adding updated and adaptable laboratories for various scientific disciplines, including chemistry, biology, psychology and applied science.

According to the College’s website, the development involves “the construction of a new, high-tech laboratory building as well as renovation of existing spaces.

According to the website, “the project includes modernization of the building and mechanical systems, improved technological capacity and capability, upgraded electrical capacity and modernization of laboratory spaces.”

The project is financed by \$37 million from the commonwealth of Virginia \$17.7 million from private donations.

The facility’s improvement and expansion is a vital and long awaited addition to the science department, as present facilities are more than 30 years old. Considering the rapid change and acceleration of technology in the past three decades, the administration says the improvements are necessary for the department’s integrity.

“Millington was built in 1968 and Rogers was built in 1975, so you can imagine we need new facilities,” Anna Martin, vice president of administration, said. “Today’s science is much more sophisticated. ... Everything in these two buildings is very outdated.”

The construction and renovation project will consist of two phases. The first phase, beginning Feb. 10, involves the construction of an entirely new facility located between Millington and Rogers Halls, accommodating both the chemistry

and biology departments. Currently Rogers Hall houses the chemistry department, while biology and psychology are offered at Millington. After the second phase of the project, psychology will move into a newly renovated Rogers Hall. The integration of chemistry and biology is a result of the demand both subjects place on high-tech laboratory settings.

“The new building will have all the labs for biology and chemistry. And for the psychology labs, which are ‘lower tech,’ Rogers will be renovated,” Martin said. “[The project] is a completely new construction and a major renovation.”

According to Martin, the most innovative characteristic of the lab design is its adaptability to technological innovation.

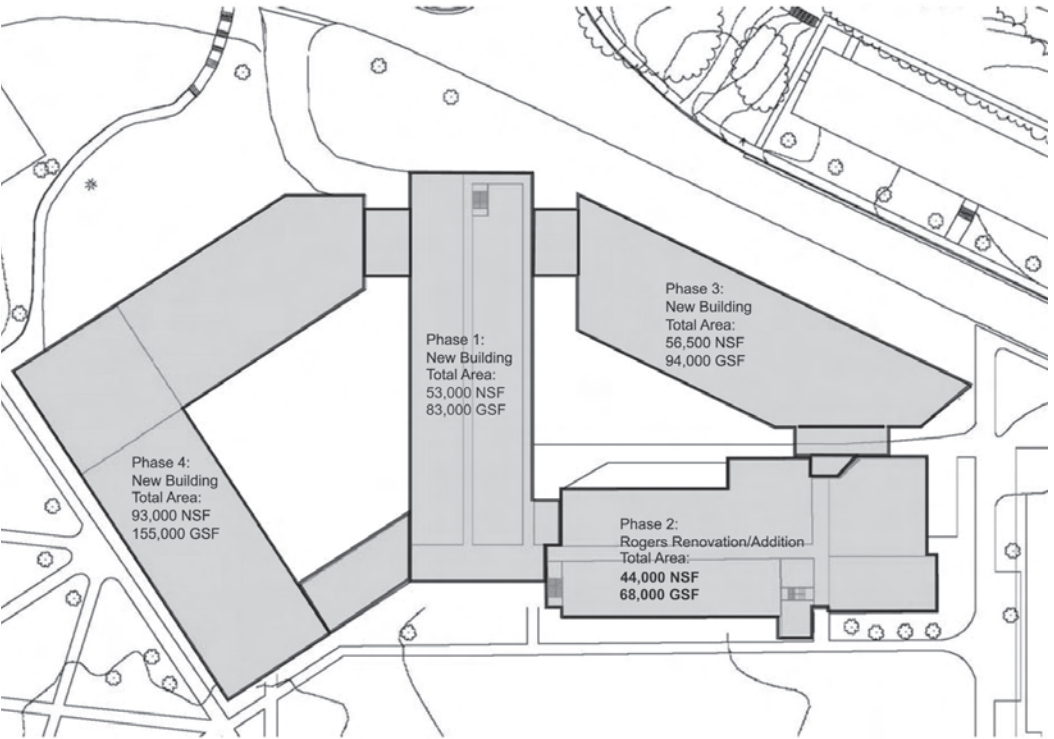
“The way you build science labs [today] is to make them more flexible, so you’re not customizing labs anymore, so as things change over the years, you can change with them,” she said.

While the old laboratories conformed to the scientific standards of the 1960s and 1970s, the ISC will be less uniform, allowing for flexibility in the future. A vivarium, a specially designed room for the containment of laboratory animals, will also be located in the ISC’s basement. The project has been slated for completion in January 2008.

The project also has a hypothetical “third phase,” involving the demolition of Millington Hall and the construction of a new facility. Because funding is limited, it is uncertain when, or if, this phase will be initiated.

Martin acknowledged the help and insight of the science faculty in designing and implementing the construction plans.

“Professors were completely involved in this project since day one,” she said. “Whenever we build a building, the people who are going to live in that building are part of the design process.”



COURTESY GRAPHIC • MOSELEY ARCHITECTS



COURTESY GRAPHIC • MOSELEY ARCHITECTS

Top: A possible design scheme of all four phases for the new integrated science center, termed the maximum build-out plan. Bottom: A map of the current layout of Millington and Rogers Halls.

ASSAULT

FROM PAGE 1

nurse at Sentara Hospital, where the woman was undergoing medical tests after the event.

“At this point, no criminal complaint has been filed,” Sadler said. “The College continues to work with the woman and with the man involved.”

At the press conference, Walker emphasized the College’s policy of advising victims and the accused of their rights.

Sadler hailed the efforts of Dr. Haygood Jackson, the College’s sexual assault response coordinator, calling Jackson a “natural resource.” He and Nichol also called for a full-time sexual assault educator.

According to Walker, most rapes are acquaintance rapes. In the past 10 years, there have only been two

on-campus incidents in which sexual misconduct occurred between two strangers — November of last year and September 2001. The administration said it hopes to make this fact better known to students and community members.

“There is a difference, but the trauma associated is no less real,” Sadler said of acquaintance rape.

Sadler admitted that there are several areas where the College’s current rape education programs fall short, particularly in the education of upperclassmen, transfer students and freshmen in their second semester.

During the conference, members of the local media questioned Sadler and Walker about Samantha Collins, an alumna who went on national television in 2001 to discuss being raped at the College. Collins called the College’s response “very slow.”

Sadler responded by emphasizing the personal attention given to all

students involved in such a situation, whether the accuser or the accused.

“This is not something that education can solve on its own. At its heart this is an issue of personal responsibility,” Sadler said. Sadler and Nichol also support the creation of a peer advocacy group for victims.

“[Our success] is entirely dependent upon students exercising personal responsibility and looking out for one another,” Nichol said. “I’m also grateful that Sam Sadler is such a remarkable person.”

The College has applied for a federal grant, which would supply the College with approximately \$200,000 to assist in the education of students and members of the campus police. As of press time, there was no word whether the grant would be provided.

Sadler said he expects all programs to be up and running by next fall.

BUDGET

FROM PAGE 1

Virginia General Assembly Building where they again heard from Nichol, as well as Sen. Tommy Norment (R-3rd).

According to Popps, students then separated into small teams of four to lobby individual members of various committees and house leaders. Students gave legislators bottles of hot sauce, reminding them of The College’s “Hottest Small State School” designation awarded by Newsweek.

Nichol and Popps both highlighted the discrepancy between the College’s Newsweek ranking of 6th among public universities and 115th among financial resources overall.

The annual trip was organized by the office of public affairs and the president’s office. Popps, who has been involved with the “Road to Richmond” trip for three years, said that the event involves a tremendous amount of planning ahead of time..

He added that the Virginia Library is reserved months in advance for the event, and that all

Under the MICROSCOPE

◆ SCIENCE MAJORS GAIN EXPERIENCE BY CONDUCTING RESEARCH

By BECKY EASLEY AND JENNA ECKARDT
THE FLAT HAT

Undergraduate research is a major component science majors at the College. In the first of two parts, this week’s column focuses on research in the psychology, biology and chemistry departments. Each section tries to get a broad understanding of the role of undergraduates in research, the best ways to approach professors for opportunities and the rewards that research provides.

Psychology students can take research classes and even design and carry out their own experiments. Research classes are meant to teach students how to interpret data and design experiments.

According to psychology Professor Glenn Shean, not all psychology majors need to do research. Undergraduates who are interested in research are able to work with professors and graduate students to get a feel for, and eventually design, their own projects.

Shean suggested that students who know they are interested in research should start looking for willing professors by spring of sophomore year. For most professors, there is not a GPA requirement to begin. Students who are highly motivated and show an interest in the area are the ones who perform best in a research setting, Shean said.

“It is to every faculty member’s advantage to have good, hardworking students,” Shean said.

In the biology department, the first step to becoming involved in research is to do some research of your own. According to biology Professor Margaret Saha, students should begin looking for research opportunities up to two semesters before they want to start because biology labs are often full.

Professor John Swaddle recommends students “treat it [research] as a mini-assignment.” Students may use the biology department’s website to browse their preferred areas of research and should be prepared to ask faculty about their work.

According to Swaddle, it is a good idea to meet with the professor, even if their lab is full, because they may have space available in the future and could recommend other professors with lab space.

Enthusiasm, more so than GPA, is the most important criterion for students successful in research. Saha said she advises most biology students to consider research.

“Sometimes it is just really hard to get a feel for what science really is in a lecture,” Saha said. Moreover, professors note that research experience is now practically a pre-requisite for graduate studies in biology.

Research in biology is more open-ended than in other departments, and involvement depends on the interest of the student. Opportunities are available both during the summer and the academic year. Once admitted to a professor’s lab, the student may receive up to three credits per semester, but the time commitment is typically five hours per week for one credit. Students will eventually be expected to develop an independent project related to the work of the professor.

Unlike biology, the chemistry department requires majors to take a research class, Chemistry 320. Taken in the spring of junior year, the class leads to a research project with a professor senior year. Interested students can also become involved earlier by approaching professors individually. If they research during the academic year, students receive class credits, and if they work during the summer they are given a stipend and free college housing.

According to Professor Robert Pike, undergraduate research director for the chemistry department, students most suited for research are intellectually curious and creative. He said interested students don’t need a specific interest area, but they do need to be interested in the general work or the professor.

According to chemistry Professor William Starnes, students should be prepared to work as independently as possible and spend a significant amount of time in the lab, even if they are not signed up for many research credits. They will attend weekly research group meetings and interact with graduate students and visiting scientists.

Pike said that undergraduate students are tremendously important in the lab; without them, research would be impossible. He added that it is through research that students learn to think like scientists and gain practical experience.

World Beat: Israel-Palestine Vote follows Sharon stroke

By JOE KANE
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

The precarious relations between Israel and the Arab world took another turn Jan. 4 as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon suffered a massive stroke. Sharon’s absence will affect how Israel responds to the Islamic military party Hamas’s victory in Wednesday’s Palestinian Authority election.

Sharon’s hemorrhagic stroke, which caused severe bleeding in the brain of the 77-year-old leader, forced doctors to undertake immediate surgery. This caused Sharon to slip into a medically-induced coma, minimizing the stroke’s debilitating

Sharon recently left the ruling right-wing Likud party to form a centrist party, Kadima, meaning “forward,” the Jan. 18 edition of BBC News reported. Sharon hoped to draw voters from both Likud and the left-wing Labor party for the March elections.

Deemed “temporarily incapable of discharging his powers” by Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Sharon, who was first elected Prime Minister in 2001 and re-elected in 2003, will be replaced indefinitely by Olmert. The Jan. 18 edition of BBC News reports that, like Sharon, Olmert shifted his political stance from the right to the center, and Olmert and Kadima are still favored to

considered a terrorist group by the United States, would prefer that Israel not exist and may present another barrier to peace for the region.

Some in the Arab world have pointed to statements by Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz concerning treatment of Iran in expressing their continued concern over a post-Sharon Israel.

“Thwarting Iran’s nuclear aspirations will for now be done by passing the hot potato to the [United Nations] Security Council. At the same time, however, Israel is committed to protecting itself and that is what it plans to do,” Mofaz said, according to the Jan. 21 online edition of The Jerusalem Post.

SITUATION:

After his high-profile departure from his ruling right-wing Likud Party, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon formed a moderate political party, Kadima, aiming to find a peaceful solution to conflict in the Middle East. Earlier this month, Sharon fell victim to a stroke and has been left incapacitated and in a coma. At this crucial juncture in Israel’s history, Kadima is favored to win the upcoming March elections and continue Sharon’s vision for peace. The party faces a potential stumbling block in radical Islamist party Hamas’s victory in Wednesday’s Palestinian Authority elections.

effects, the Jan. 18 edition of CNN.com reported. With little visible improvement in the leader’s health, Israel has been thrown into a frenzy over its domestic and international affairs, an event which likely marks the end to Sharon’s public career, which has spanned six decades.

This is not the first health issue that Sharon has faced, according to a Dec. 18 CNN report. Nevertheless, this most recent stroke was a surprise, even to Sharon’s personal doctor Boleslaw Goldman, the Jan. 4 online edition of BBC News reported. Sharon’s exit from public life comes at a critical moment for Israel after its controversial withdrawal from the Gaza strip in late August and before its own parliamentary elections in March. Sharon has also headed a country tense with worry over the state of Iran’s nuclear program.

win the most seats in the Knesset, or parliament, in the March elections.

It remains unclear how the nation will handle its heated relations with its neighbors without Sharon, the Jan. 18 edition of the BBC reported. After he evicted Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip in August, according to public polls, most Israelis agreed with his decision, seeing it not as a sign of weakness but as a necessary step for promoting peace. On the other hand, many Palestinians see the Gaza withdrawal, coupled with Sharon’s stroke, as a symbol of Israel’s crumbling political institutions.

Still, some Palestinians are wary of Israel even without Sharon and Likud in power. The Jan. 26 edition of CNN.com reported that Hamas won Wednesday’s Palestinian’s elections in a “landslide,” ousting the Fatah ruling party. Hamas, which is

Mofaz continued to speak as if he were talking directly to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

“I suggest you take a look throughout history and see what happened to others who tried to wipe out the Jewish people,” Mofaz added. “In the end they brought destruction to their own people. I know the people of Iran and they should know that Ahmadinejad’s policies will bring disaster upon them.”

When the time comes for Israel to take a stance over Iran, it is still not entirely clear in which direction the new leadership will take the country. Furthermore, even after Sharon has endured multiple surgeries to mitigate the prolonged effects of his stroke, it is unclear as to whether he will ever recover and to what degree. For now, both Israel and Sharon lie in stable but critical condition.

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BRIEFS

Scholarships

Students interested in graduate study abroad for the 2007 yo 2008 school year are encouraged to apply for an Ambassadorial Scholarship sponsored by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. This scholarship program is designed to further world understanding and peace by sending ambassadors of good will to study in another country for an academic year. Applications and details can be found on the Rotary International website at www.rotary.org. Each scholarship provides up to \$26,000 (amounts depending on expenses associated with one's studies). A minimum GPA of 3.2 is required, along with two recommendations from academic instructors and a language ability form if the native language of the proposed country of study is different from the applicant's. Applications must be endorsed by a Rotary club,

but students may apply through a Rotary club in their place of legal residence or in their place of full-time study. The deadline for District 7600 applications (Williamsburg, James City County and other local clubs) is April 3. For contact with the Williamsburg club, phone or e-mail: James N. McCord, Jr., Department of History, 229-8909 or: jnmcco@wm.edu; for the James City County club, contact Jodi Fisler, Office of Student Volunteer Services, Campus Center 155.

Spring break service trips

Sign-ups to participate in an OSVS trip begins Jan. 31. A non-refundable deposit will be due when you sign up. Spaces are limited and operate on a first-come, first-served basis. The trips cost \$10 a day including lodging.

Hulon Willis Association Scholarship

The Hulon Willis Association is named after the first African-American student admitted to the College. HWA has established

Catch up on campus news throughout the week. Read The Flat Hat online.

<http://flathat.wm.edu>

the Hulon Willis Sr. Memorial Scholarship Endowment to provide financial assistance to students at the College. The opportunities provided by the scholarship not only assist deserving students who exemplify the qualities of HWA but also help enrich the diversity of the College's community. Scholarship applications are now available at the offices of financial aid and multicultural affairs and at www.wmalumni.com. Direct questions to Pat Burdette at x1173 or e-mail pnburd@wm.edu.

Translator needed

If you speak Dutch and would like to make a little extra money translating documents written in Dutch, contact Craig Jennings at cjennings@verizon.net.

Tutor needed

Amy Musick, a parent in the Williamsburg community, is looking for someone to tutor her fifth grade child in English and reading about two times a week. She can be reached at 357-8277. The position is paid.

Order of the White Jacket Scholarships

Scholarship applications for the Order of the White Jacket 2006 to 2007 scholarships are now available at wmalumni.com, the office of financial aid and the Alumni Center. The Order of

the White Jacket was created to honor and bring together alumni who worked their way through college in the food service establishments at the College and in the surrounding community. The organization's goals and objectives include supporting current students working their way through college in food service through scholarship opportunities. Last year, the Order of the White Jacket gave out \$32,000 in scholarships to students at the College. For more information, contact Pat Burdette at pnburd@wm.edu or x1173. Applications are due March 17.

Companion needed

A 49-year-old Williamsburg man with Downs Syndrome is looking for a student to spend time with him beginning in February. He works on campus and is involved at the AREC but is looking for further social companionship. His parents are willing to pay for activities and any gas costs. If interested, please contact Lauren Grainger at lugrai@wm.edu or x7639.

Museum volunteers

There are immediate needs for long-term volunteers in service roles at the Mariners' Museum at its gift shop and admissions desk. Those interested should contact Dan Maher, manager of docents and volunteers, at 591-7747 or dmaher@mariner.org for more details. Volunteers may also be

interested in attending the open house for volunteers tomorrow from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Huntington Room at the museum. Refreshments will be served.

Japanese culture party

The Japanese Culture Association will be holding a culture party at 7 p.m. tomorrow at the University Center. It will feature food such as sushi, miso soup and yaki soba in addition to a theater production. There will be a raffle. Tickets will be sold at the UC before the event for \$7, or for \$9 at the door.

Male mentor needed

An Avalon client is looking for a male mentor for her son. Volunteers must be willing to keep regular weekly contact with the boy in order to keep him on track with his homework. For more information, contact Avalon's volunteer coordinator Trisha Hunsaker at 258-9362 or e-mail her at trisha@avaloncenter.org.

Colonial Williamsburg housing

Applications are currently available for rising seniors who are interested in living in Colonial Williamsburg during the 2006 to 2007 academic year. You can find out more information about this

housing option at <http://www.wm.edu/studentaffairs/cwhouse.php>. Return completed application materials to the Campus Center room 219 by Feb. 3 at 5 p.m. For more information, contact Chip Phillips at fhphil@wm.edu.

Ph.D. examination

The College's department of physics presents Hailong Huang's final oral examination for the Ph.D. degree, titled "Ultrafast Laser Spectroscopy of Half-Metallic Chromium Dioxide" Feb. 6 at 1:30 p.m. in the William Small Physical Laboratory Conference room. This event is open to the public.

Basketball league

Do you have the desire to make a difference in children's' lives? The local youth basketball league, CAA-NBL, is looking for coaches. All that volunteers need to give is two hours a week (one hour of practice and a game Friday night or Saturday evening) and one hour monthly for coaches' meetings. Call Victoria Butler at 229-3316 to get involved.

Hospice volunteers needed

Heartland Hospice's client base in Williamsburg is in need of volunteers. Call Carolyn at 594-8215, if interested.



Good Night, and Good Luck (PG)
Fri., Jan. 27-
Fri., Feb. 3
7 and 9 p.m.
Jan. 28, 30, Feb. 1, 3
screening room
(35 seats)

The Squid and the Whale (R)
Fri., Jan. 27-
Fri., Feb. 3
6:45 and 8:45 p.m.
Jan. 27, 29, 31, Feb. 2
screening room
(35 seats)

Coming Attraction

Thumbsucker (R)
Sat., Feb. 4-
Wed., Feb. 8
7 and 8:45 p.m.
Feb. 4, 5, 7 screening
room (35 seats)

Live Performances

William & Mary Botetourt Chamber Singers: Gala Concert
Our Favorites
Sat., Feb. 4 at 8 p.m.
All seats \$15

The Williamsburg Symphonia presents Family Concert
Sun., Feb. 5 at 2 p.m.
All seats \$5

Playwrights Premiere Theatre presents Love Letters
by A. R. Gurney
Thurs., Feb. 9-Sat., Feb. 11 and Tues.,
Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m.,
Sun., Feb. 12 at 2 p.m.
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STAFF EDITORIAL

Task Force travesties

Since its inception in January of 2004, the College’s alcohol policy and corresponding Task Force have demonstrated their utter failure to bring about any positive changes in the behavior surrounding the use of alcohol on this campus. As with many paternalistic initiatives, the Task Force and its policies do far more harm than good, endangering students who would otherwise find safe ways to drink socially.

Perhaps little known to students outside the Units, resident assistants make nightly rounds until 11 p.m., constantly searching for any open rooms in which students might be drinking. The RA’s are empowered to cite any students for drinking with their room door open, or for playing loud music. In addition, the prohibition on serving or consuming alcohol in open areas (i.e., anywhere outside a dorm room) has effectively removed all transparency in attempts to regulate the practice.

While these guidelines may not seem dangerous on first glance, their indirect effects are significant; drinking is no longer a social activity on this campus, it is a private matter, and a dangerous one at that. Not surprisingly, these measures have not in any way decreased actual desire for drinking, but they have changed the manner in which students now seek opportunities to drink. Essentially pushing alcohol activities underground — or, more accurately, into upperclassmen men’s dorms — the rules now encourage students to “pre-game,” and pre-game hard. There’s no chance of getting a drink in an open room or lounge, so students have to retreat into secluded, closed-door areas within the Units. Without guarantees of access to moderate amounts of alcohol throughout the night, students wishing to drink get loaded up early, consuming far more in far less time than they would probably otherwise choose.

Visitors to the Units, particularly women, therefore typically have only one option, to go into someone else’s room, relying on them for safety behind closed doors. While there is, of course, no direct evidence we can present to prove that this leads to instances of rape and other harmful criminal activities, and while we by no means suggest that all residents of the Units will use such situations for malicious purposes, it is not hard to imagine that these situations are by their very nature risky and probably do not help the administration in its efforts to prevent sexual assault.

Furthermore, the upswing of enforcement activities by the Task Force and Campus Police in the last two years have served only to destroy the public atmosphere of formerly safe events like Blowout. Today, students may choose not to go home from a party for fear of being caught in public, or worse, they may be forced to take unsafe and unfamiliar paths just to avoid the police. Instead of authorities assuming a proper role as protectors and aides in case of trouble, the police are simply antagonists out to bust students, whether their behavior is dangerous or not.

The effects of this type of alcohol policy are similar to restrictive U.S. laws based on age; the inaccessibility of alcohol in controlled amounts only serves to create a mystique, undermining the original goal of abating desire for it. In this case, the results are even more insidious in that the rules give students few options that are both safe and fun.

In addition, the harms caused by the far more restrictive measures on alcohol consumption are not limited to the members of this campus; the entire town suffers as a result. Without alcohol allowed in residence halls, the only other options are off-campus parties, to which some locals undoubtedly take offense. Though potentially loud or disruptive parties can be somewhat annoying, what is more important is that forcing students and parties off campus increases the likelihood of driving risks, both to students and Williamsburg residents generally. And while the College does provide some options for safe transportation, such as the Escort service and Steer Clear, there is a general consensus that those programs, ending so early and taking so long, are not even remotely sufficient to meet students’ needs. Perhaps with more funding to compensate members for their time they could be useful programs, but we’re not optimistic.

Though improving escort services would help keep students safe, it makes far more sense in the long run to revise the Alcohol Task Force’s absurd policies. Once and for all, let’s ditch the location restrictions and accept like adults that students will find ways to drink no matter what policies exist. Why make it more dangerous by pretending that making students hide in others’ rooms is the best way to keep them safe?

Editorial Board:

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Banner boutique

If there is one thing I’m good at, it is shopping. I find the best deals, make the most out of every shopping trip and generally derive great pleasure from the process. Unfortunately, College students are only given a week and a half to shop for our courses and even less time to return our books to the bookstore for the classes we dropped. The more classes you attend and professors you meet, the more educated your final decision will be at the end of add/drop. If you miss the first day of a Tuesday/Thursday class, you will have to base your judgment of the class on a mere two lectures. I may be a good shopper, but when it comes to classes, no one is *that* good.

University of Southern California students are given three weeks to finalize their schedules without penalty. Students at MIT can drop a class up until three weeks before the end of the semester. If a student at the College dropped a course that late into the semester, the dreaded “W” for “Withdrawn” would appear on his or her transcript. The first two weeks of every semester at Yale are known as “shopping period,” during which students can attend as many classes as they want, registering for those classes after shopping period is over.

If the College wishes to consider itself a peer of these schools, then something needs to change to give students more flexibility in finding classes they actually want to take. There is no point in attending a class for an entire semester if you do not like the material, the professor or the time slot. Yes, life lessons can be learned from a professor who challenges you or from that 8 a.m. class that makes you get out of bed when you just went to sleep a few hours before. But for the most part, many students end up taking classes simply because they cannot find other alternatives before add/drop ends.

Restrictions put in place last year prevent students from registering for more than 16 credits, even though we are allowed to carry 18 credits without applying for an academic overload. The restriction,

ostensibly put in place to prevent students from registering for more classes than they were actually planning to take and dropping their least favorite course(s) during add/drop, prevents anyone who actually wants to take 18 credits from doing so at the time of registration in the semester prior. And even with this restriction, courses fill up anyway.

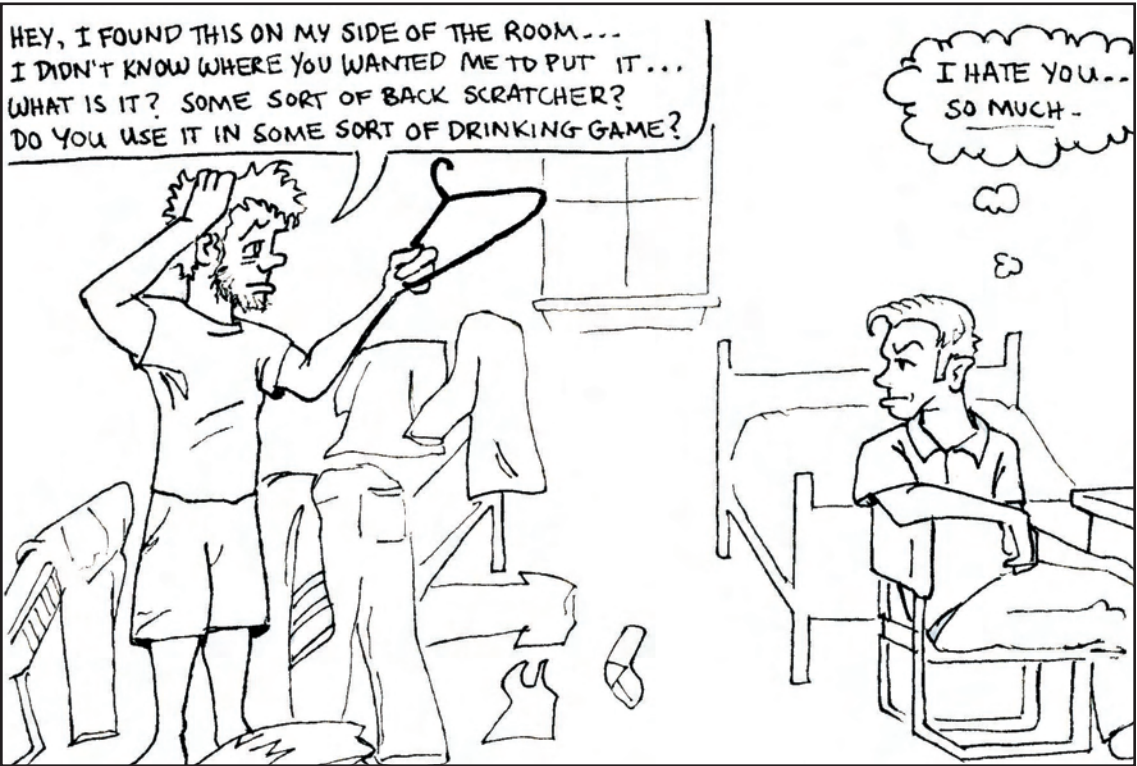
Additionally, students should not have to pester professors to override size limitations put in place to keep classes small. Professors should not have to wade through a mountain of e-mails each night during the first week of classes from students trying to squeeze themselves into a course. We don’t like writing those e-mails, professors don’t like reading them. Aren’t size restrictions put on classes for a reason? Lively discussions in a class of 40 are as frequent as trips to the Health Center for fun.

College students should have the flexibility to “shop around” for classes, sampling courses until we find those that best fit our needs, interests and personalities. We should be able to register for 18 credits before the semester begins, then use the first few weeks of class to craft our ideal schedules without having to grovel for admittance. Extending the add/drop period is an excellent solution to this problem, but more needs to be done.

The College should ensure that it offers enough classes and sections of popular classes to meet the student body’s needs. The College dropped 46 courses in 2002, consequently eliminating the Kinesiology GER. Class after class in every department — from business to psychology to history — will be filled to or beyond capacity by the end of add/drop. Where feasible, more professors need to be hired to teach additional sections of required courses as well as elective options, or fewer undergraduate students should be admitted.

Even if finances will not allow more hires, students should still be given more time to “try on” their courses and make educated purchases. For a \$25,000-a-year expenditure (for out-of-state students), a lengthier shopping period seems only fair.

Angela Casolaro is a senior at the College. Her views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.



Lazy, indeed

Have you heard about the student who is starring in a full-length independent film about the Civil War? How about the student who just finished writing an album? Or the student who is composing music for a short film produced by a Hollywood studio? What about the student who is writing “Titus Andronicus: the Musical”? You haven’t heard of them?

Well, perhaps you’ve heard more about the students who are involved in campus activities ... Like the student who single-handedly brought a phenomenal touring musician to perform with students at the College last semester, or the one helping to organize a dual video game tournament and concert for the College’s Concert Band. (He even arranged Mortal Kombat for them to play.) Maybe you noticed students recording and mixing live concerts by a cappella groups and Homebrew performers?

All of the students mentioned above are freshmen, and they all live in Monroe 229. Crowded, perhaps?

Not quite: Monroe 229 is the home of just two freshmen. The average course load in Monroe 229 is nineteen credits, and the room has earned itself straight As (excepting one regrettable B+). But the inhabitants care about more than just grades. They have a strong sense of political efficacy and volunteered in last semester’s gubernatorial campaigns. They also care about America’s youth, volunteering their time with high schoolers as counselors and chaperones. They actively participate in the Concert Band, InterVarsity, Ebony Expressions, the

Appalachian Music Ensemble and Shakespeare in the Dark. Monroe 229 can be found frequenting social and cultural events as well: gay film festivals, church services, heavy metal concerts and guest speakers all make the cut on Monroe 229’s to-do lists.

Why is Monroe 229 so involved? They are simply compensating for the lack of involvement by the College’s Class of 2009. But what makes this year’s freshman class different from the rest?

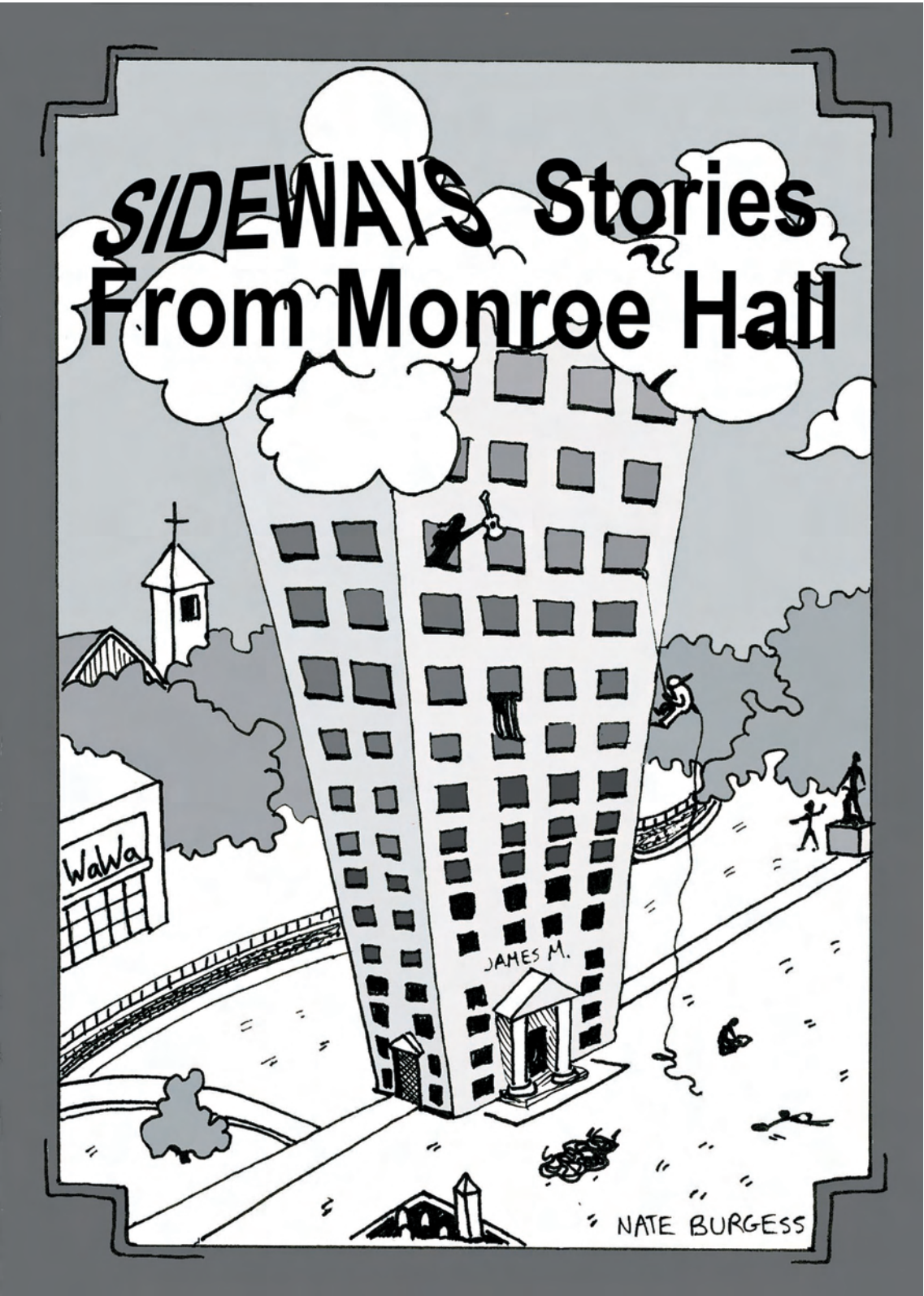
They have a unique community. You might not find many of them at your fraternity or Student Assembly meetings, but they can be found playing poker in Monroe, dominating Midnight Frisbee at 10 in the Sunken Garden, watching “The Princess Bride” in Taliaferro, having dart-gun-fights-to-the-death in Dupont, hosting dance parties in Yates, rolling in the mud in front of Barrett, posing in their underwear next to Thomas Jefferson, heating things up in Swem or hanging tire swings next to the admissions building.

A recent column in The Flat Hat suggested that freshmen don’t care for the College. Their enthusiasm for life on campus suggests otherwise. They have a vision for the College that appears to be different from the classes that preceded them, and they are changing the face of the College as we know it. The College’s reputation for “all work and no play” is waning.

Monroe 229 is everything the College could ask for: research center, press room, recording studio, social lounge, and love nest.

As for the rest of the class of 2009; there’s always 2010 ...

Christian Amonson is a freshman at the College. His views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.





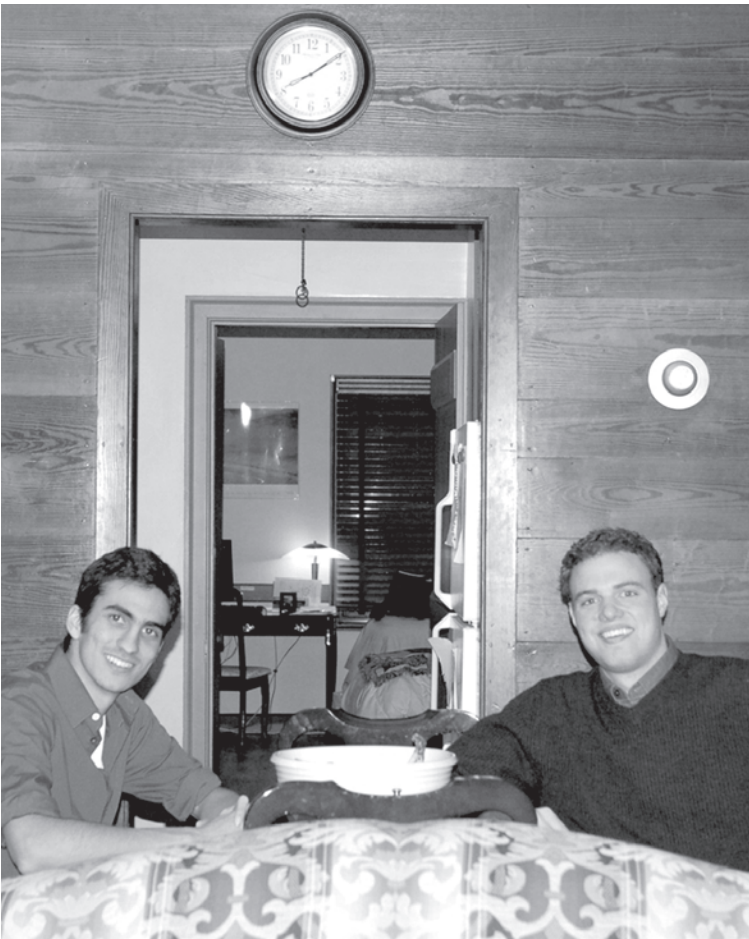
This well-traveled young lady knows how to call out a technical foul in three languages. She also plays a wicked ‘d’. See THAT GIRL, page 10.

Students discover bold new way of life with off-campus housing



IRENE ROJAS • THE FLAT HAT

From left to right: The William Randolph Lodging in Colonial Williamsburg; seniors Matt Eakin, left, and Mark Day, right, relax in their home for the year; the house features a set of stockades in the front lawn.



IRENE ROJAS • THE FLAT HAT



COURTESY PHOTO • WWW.WM.EDU

Colonial Williamsburg opens up historic house on Nicholson Street for two students with a special project

By ELIZABETH COLE
THE FLAT HAT

Beginning five years ago, two rising seniors were selected each spring to live for a full acadmic year in house number 406 on East Nicholson Street in the heart of Colonial Williamsburg. The idea for two College students to inhabit a colonial residence is the product of a series of discussions between Colonial Williamsburg and the College. Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs Ginger Ambler describes the house as a joint concept, or “a way to enhance the collaboration between Williamsburg and [the College].” In return for the residency, the chosen seniors plan and execute an interactive program series designed to unite colonial residents, college students and the community.

This year’s seniors, Mark Day and Matt Eakin, organized six musical performances that trace the history of modern music. As ambassadors of the College, Day and Eakin invite College administrators, friends and Colonial Williamsburg associates to sample food and hear music in their home. Having strong musical backgrounds — Day as a member of the Botetourt Chamber Singers and Eakin a former drum major for his high school — the pair decided music was a great way to bring people together.

“We just want people to enjoy themselves and have a good time,” Eakin said. Thus far, performances have featured medieval, renaissance, baroque, classical and romantic music.

The house, situated parallel to DoG street, is steeped in history. Also known as the William Randolph Lodging, the house was originally built in 1735 and was the temporary home of House of Burgess member William Randolph during legislative sessions. The house was reconstructed in 1949.

How are students selected to live in this locale? This year the College’s student affairs office receives

applications until Feb. 3. Pairs of rising seniors may apply and must have at least one reference and an idea for what kind of program they would institute if chosen. According to Chip Phillips, a graduate assistant in the Office of Student Affairs, between five and 15 pairs of students apply each year. A panel comprised of a CW representative, Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler and other administrators then interview students to choose the two most qualified seniors. Day and Eakin prepared a printed pamphlet of their music program before interviewing to outline their ideas for the collaborative residence.

For their hard work, the residents reap benefits beyond the quaint setting.

“There is a time commitment to planning the events, but it really is a lot of fun to host. It’s pleasant work,” Day said.

Colonial Williamsburg staffers assist in maintenance, but Day and Eakin said they delighted in decorating the house for the Christmas season. The two helped

select ferns, wreaths and candles, all subject to with Colonial Williamsburg approval, to make the house more festive. The cost of living is another treat. Each of the two residents pays the equivalent price for living in an on-campus single, and the house is fully furnished. CW Facilities Management and the College cover costs for fixing appliances and general upkeep.

Both boys knew about the leased housing long before the applications were due.

“I knew I wanted to live here, and I knew people who lived here before,” Day said.

For less informed students, the College is advertising the application process in the Student Happenings e-mails and by hosting open houses. Phillips said he was impressed with the turnout of the fall open house, advertised in a schedule of events for the College’s family weekend. There will be another open house Jan. 29 from 3 to 5 p.m. for prospective applicants and curious students.

By MAX FISHER
FLAT HAT VARIETY EDITOR

The housing lottery can be a scary time for students at the College. For those who would prefer not to share the units with some half dozen fraternities and/or live over a mile away in the Dillard complex, especially freshman and sophomores who are assigned low lottery priority, odds are slim and prospects bleak. With enrollment at the College rising steadily for the past few years while the number of dorms remains the same (until Barksdale is completed), landing a desirable dorm room is tougher than ever. It is no surprise, then, that an increasing number of students have been flocking to off-campus apartment complexes in recent years.

“We have had a surprising increase in the number of student tenants in the past year,” Cecilia Williamson, office manager at Lawson Enterprises on Garrison Drive said. Family-owned Lawson Enterprises owns four different apartment complexes around Williamsburg. This includes the student favorites Clinton Gardens and Spring Road, both of which are located behind Big Lots on Monticello Avenue.

The single-bedroom efficiency apartments are especially popular with students who are willing to pay about 50 percent more than campus housing rates for almost three times the space.

“We could have rented 50 more [than the already occupied 36] apartments to students if we only had them,” Williamson said. “We always have more applicants than tenants.”

Lawson Enterprises also offers two bedroom units, which are comparable in price to campus housing rates. Senior Lincoln Saunders has lived in one such apartment in Spring Gardens since he moved out of his Governor’s Square apartment during his junior year.

“I had never even seen the inside until I moved in, but I like this place a lot better than Governors Square,” Saunders said. “The maintenance and office staff have all been good people.”

However, according to Williamson, Lawson Apartments neither rely on nor cater specifically to students. She estimates that even those apartments that are most popular with students are “occupied by maybe 30 percent college students.”

“When [several former apartment complexes] converted to time shares, we received many elderly tenants who have stayed here since,” she said.

Saunders agreed that the student population was

lower at Spring Roads than at other, non-Lowson owned apartment complexes in Williamsburg.

“There are fewer students who are tenants here than I would have expected,” he said. “Generally, I don’t see or interact with many.”

While Williamson reported that most tenants are either students or elderly retirees, most of whom tend to keep to themselves, she conceded that their low rent often attracts a third element.

“We get a lot of tenants who are, for one reason or another, in a state of transition in their lives,” she said. “Most of them are fine, but we have had some domestic problems. It’s very disruptive. It’s not pleasant.”

Still, Williamson said that she maintains a regulated and pleasant community.

“Complaints come in this office real fast,” she said. “If someone is causing problems, we will end their lease that month. We haven’t had to evict any William and Mary students in a long time, though.”

Saunders also expressed some unhappiness with the location of the complex.

“I certainly don’t walk to class,” he said, “or when I go out at night. It’s just not close enough.”

His ultimate opinion of Lawson’s complex, however, is evident in his decision to spend his senior year there after experiencing both Spring Gardens and Governor’s Square.

For those who live by the real estate adage

See APARTMENTS + page 10



MAX FISHER • THE FLAT HAT

New year introspection inspires renewal of spirit, direction

CONFUSION CORNER



Lauren Bell

I had a lot of ideas for this column. It’s my first one of the new year, so I could have written something about my New Year’s resolutions — always a classic. I could have written about my break (boring), my new classes (more boring) or the upcoming Valentine’s season (would probably get me punched in the face). Nothing I could think of really caught my interest. I wasn’t inspired, and since the great art of ranting in a student newspaper requires great inspiration, I was out of luck.

Then I looked back on what I had just written. Ranting? Yes, I guess that was about right. I did rant about a lot of pointless things last semester. Why was I so angry?

After a nice long thaw in good ol’ Georgia (where it is never actually winter), I have returned with open arms, ready to start anew. I would like to address, in particular, two of the biggest victims of my irrational rage: President Gene R. Nichol and the college bookstore.

I do not refer to Nichol as a “big” victim because of his imposing stature, but his size did play a small role in my change of heart. What can I say — the man makes a great Santa Claus. Now, I am not one who easily forgives anything, particularly not a disdainful rejection of my heartfelt offer of friendship. Just because someone happens to round out a furry red suit pretty well does not mean I have to like him. However, Mr. Nichol’s festive performance of “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” nearly matched old Timmy J.’s in its level of Christmas spirit. How can you stay mad at someone who calls the Yule Log ceremony, “a beloveded tradition”? Believe me, I tried to hold on to some of that old fury, but I just can’t do it.

I also can’t carry on the lie about hating the college bookstore. I just finished paying for my books, and they cost me about the same as would a small private island. So why am I apologizing to the bookstore? Well, have you

ever said something snarky about someone when you didn’t really mean it, and then you met them and they were really nice? And they looked at you with sad eyes, and said, “Why? Why are you trying to ruin our business?” as a single tear rolled down their cheek? Maybe that last part didn’t really happen, but after ripping up the bookstore for almost no good reason, I did get an e-mail from the manager requesting a meeting. I told my friends where I was going, so they could look for my mangled body behind the Barnes and Noble dumpsters, just in case I never came back. I could see myself going in there, naïvely expecting a civilized meeting over some coffee and instead being bludgeoned alternately by The Complete History of Virginia (hardback edition) and extra-frozen iced orange mocha frappacinos.

Instead, I walked in, and I met Steve. Steve is the manager. Steve also happens to be the name with the highest comedic potential in

recent history, in my book. Just say it out loud — it’s pretty funny. Tall, haggard and surprisingly normal-looking, Steve didn’t have any makeshift weaponry at all. We sat and talked. He offered me a drink (caffeinated, not alcoholic — Steve is not that kind of guy). He explained that they sell useless junk mostly for the tourist market, not just to annoy me. He didn’t even laugh when my apology went something like, “Well, I have this column, but I never know what to write, so I mostly just complain ...” This guy may have been the most polite, mild-mannered person ever. I got his e-mail address (score) just in case I wanted to send him any suggestions, and then I went home, unscathed, but feeling like a gigantic jerk.

I’m not saying that Nichol and the college bookstore don’t have any negative qualities. A

See RENEWAL + page 9

Variety Calendar

Highlights of the week

— compiled by jeff dooley

Open mic night

♦ If you enjoy singing, doing stand-up comedy or just enjoy listening to yourself talk, then tomorrow night's open mic night is for you. This UCAB-sponsored event takes place at Lodge 1 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Come see if you have what it takes to be on stage.

To have an event printed in the Variety Calendar, call x3281 before 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Area concerts

♦ For those of you looking for a break from your regular college routine, there are several good concerts in the upcoming week within driving distance. Tonight, reggae band Soldiers of Jah Army play with In Session at Alley Katz in Richmond, Va. Doors open at 9 p.m. Tomorrow night, CKY plays with ASG and This Day is Ours at the NorVa club in Norfolk, Va. Doors open at 7 p.m. You can catch CKY the very next night, Jan. 29, at the 9:30 Club in Washington, D.C. They play with headliners Avenged Sevenfold, as well as with Bullets and Octane and Day of Contempt. Doors for this show open at 7 p.m. A perfect fit for all you American Idol fans, the Go Platinum Star Search takes place at the NorVa Sunday night, with the doors opening at 6 p.m. There are no judges, so the audience decides who wins. Alternative rock band Lifehouse plays Monday night at the 9:30 club with MoZella.



Hulabaloo

By Nate Loerhke

Horoscopes



Aquarius: Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
It's a great time to wear glasses. They're not just for nerds and emo kids anymore. Head on over to Lens Crafters and get your own pair.



Pisces: Feb. 19 - March 20
So you can make kids laugh at a party. Big deal. You're still not ready to be a stand-up comedian. You don't become Whoopi or Seinfeld overnight.



Aries: March 21 - April 19
You will argue with a friend over the quickest way to get from old campus to new campus. Just remember: it's all about cutting through the UC.



Taurus: April 20 - May 20
Test your RA's patience by drinking sparkling apple cider straight out of the bottle in the middle of the hallway. It always does the trick.



Gemini: May 21 - June 21
Have you ever thought about what things will be like in the future? Anything could happen. You could be confronted with a difficult life choice.



Cancer: June 22 - July 22
You need to meet new people. Try sitting down for lunch with a group of people you've never met. Show them that strangers are people, too.



Leo: July 23 - Aug. 22
The time is right for love, my friends, if you're looking in the right place. Where, you ask? Millington Hall. It's something in the air.



Virgo: Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
Remember when break dancing used to be cool? Well, it's back, baby! Grab yourself an instructional video and feel your popularity soar.



Libra: Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
This campus is in dire need of a superhero. You are in dire need of a way to get your crush to notice you. Do you see where I'm going with this?



Scorpio: Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Speaking of getting your crush to notice you, consider the romantic classic, the serenade. "With Arms Wide Open" would be a good song choice.



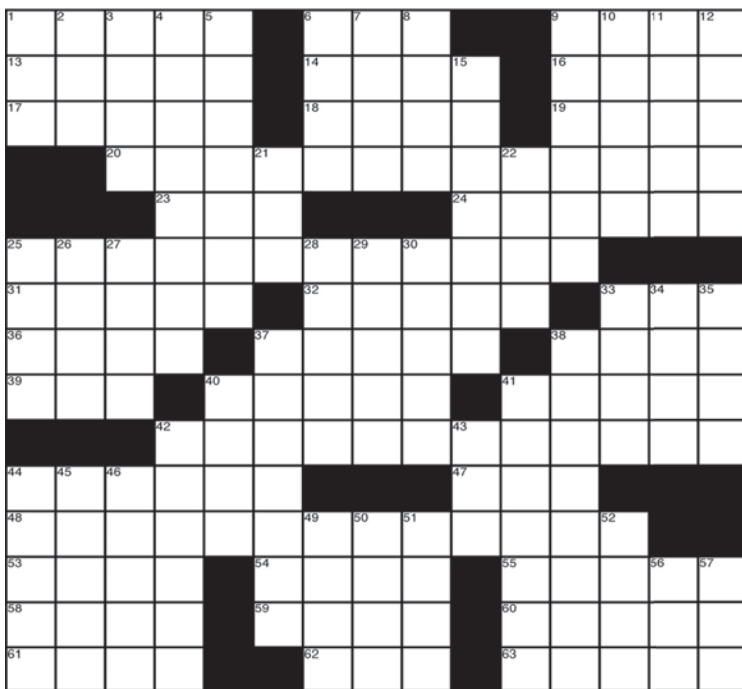
Sagittarius: Nov. 22 - Dec. 21
Start to enjoy the finer things in life: things such as cafeteria gravy. Have you tried it? It's fantastic. Just give it a shot, OK?



Capricorn: Dec. 22 - Jan. 19
There's nothing wrong with a spring break trip to Miami Beach. It's one of the finest beaches in all of the United States of America. You should go.

..... compiled by jeff dooley

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- Understanding
- Woodworking tool
- Barks
- A dime, dollarwise
- Hideout
- Calamitous
- Filer's aid
- "Rule, Britannia" composer
- Rack site
- Pink slip
- Arafat's org.
- Menu selection
- Sebastiania seeds
- First sign of spring
- Takes it easy
- Xmas gift recipient
- Considerate
- Grocery coupon value
- Wharf
- Mass. hours
- "Piece of cake"
- Bolivian capital
- Plumbing convenience
- Court stat
- "Who, me?"
- Means to an end
- Jivers
- Devoid of rocks?
- Sen. Thurmond
- "The Thin Man" dog
- Semi support
- Troy story
- "Boy, that was close!"
- Cap that may be partly plaid
- Watchers

DOWN

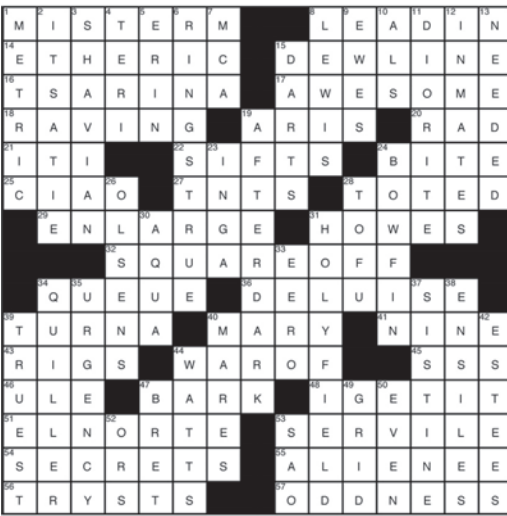
- Communications giant
- Sleep state
- Over
- Short on cash
- "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" spinoff
- Jai ____
- "Nuts!"
- Get in a good one on
- Decides to use

- Hudson, e.g.
- Soeur's sibling
- Brains
- Undoes
- ____-Tiki
- Reinking and Richards
- Boxer LaMotta
- "Battle Cry" author
- Like new
- Close in films
- Actress Beulah
- First name in rock
- Passageway
- River through Bern
- One whose work is always changing
- Southwestern saloon
- With old-fashioned charm
- Where Virgo meets Libra, e.g.
- Actress Kurtz
- Lumber mill fixture
- All clocks are set by it: Abbreviated.

- Musicians' organization.
- Thief's secret
- Tre + quattro
- Bakery call
- Festive
- Rose part
- Northwest Pennsylvania city
- Scull
- Rx writers

Source: The New York Times

Last Week's Solution



Heroman

By Thomas Baumgardner



Knowing Jack

By Mika G.Shannon

RENEWAL

FROM PAGE 8

Barnes and Noble that sells textbooks and Starbucks isn't exactly an innocent country bumpkin being picked on by the smartass college kid. They're grown-up and a corporate giant — they can take it. And Nichol, well, I don't know what he's up to these days, but he obviously has the magic of Christmas on

his side. There's not much I can do there. Besides, if anyone actually reads this column, I'm sure you're sick of hearing about him. Me, too. I can't promise a kinder, gentler Confusion Corner for the rest of the semester, but right now I'm willing to call bygones on pretty much anything ... unless it really annoys me.

Lauren Bell is a Confusion Corner columnist for The Flat Hat. Her "not being mean" shtick will not last longer than a few weeks. Make that days ... hours?

Interested in writing for the newspaper?
The Variety section is looking for writers.
No experience is required.

Come to our meetings Sundays in the
Campus Center basement at 5:30 p.m.,
or e-mail fhvrtty@wm.edu.



That Girl: Jessica Kuehne

By Tegan Neustatter
Flat Hat Staff Writer

At some point, almost all of us have wished we lived somewhere different, maybe even overseas. Senior Jessica Kuehne doesn't have to wish. Right now she lives in Hamburg, the Green City on the Water in Northern Germany. Before that, she lived in New York and Mexico. This girl is nothing if not well-traveled. Now that she's been here for four years, she's been busy working on her international relations major, as well as playing and refereeing sports on the side. In this issue, Kuehne tells us what it's like to be German and what she considers to be unsportsmanlike conduct.

Is Hamburg, Germany known for anything in particular?

It's known for its harbor and one of its cathedrals called St. Michaeliskirche. It's also known for the Reeperbahn, which is this really wide street with all these bars and clubs.

How does Hamburg measure up to some of the other places you've lived?

It's different. I was born in New York, and I lived there for 11 years. Then I moved to Mexico for two years. I moved to Germany at the beginning of high school. My parents are both German.

What I like about Hamburg is that it's the city I know. It's bigger than [Williamsburg], and there's stuff I miss, like the bakeries. I miss everything being so close, and you can get to it by public transportation.

Since both your parents are German, do you feel more in touch with your German roots living in Hamburg?

I do. When I was growing up in New York I felt more American. When we moved to Mexico, my dad was like, "Don't tell them you're American. Mexicans don't like Americans. Tell them you're German."

So I started to do that.

Plus, it was more unique being German, because I went to an international school in Mexico and there were more Americans there than Germans. [When I moved to Germany] I got to live with all of my family.

After going to high school in Germany, what

brought you back to America for college, specifically to William and Mary?

A bunch of different things. The fact that I wanted to study in English was a big thing. I was thinking Australia, or maybe Britain. If I had gone to Britain or Australia I would have to have known what I was majoring in, and I had no idea.

We have friends who live in Richmond, who we knew from when we lived in Mexico. They said "these are the good Virginia schools, you should check them out." Why William and Mary, I don't honestly know. It was April 31st, the day before my deposit had to be posted, and it was literally a half hour before the post office was closed. I was like "OK, I'll go to William and Mary." But it worked out well.

You must get a good workout from playing club volleyball and intramural soccer. What sports did you play growing up?

Mexico and Germany aren't "girl" soccer places, so I stopped playing when I was 11. I played basketball in high school. I play basketball here, I'm just not very good at it.

It must take some guts to referee certain sports, especially when you have to defend a call. What made you decide to ref?

I needed the money. Plus you can sign up for whenever you want to work. I [ref volleyball] because I like [the sport] anyways. I don't actually ref basketball, I only scorekeep because it's too intimidating. Especially when you're supposed to be refereeing a fraternity and there are big guys who think they know all about the sport shouting, "What are you talking about? That was a terrible call."

Since you are a ref, which one of these, to you, would deserve the most severe punishment: pantsing an opponent on the court, faking an injury to get a penalty or taking credit for a point/goal that isn't yours?

They're all cheating, really. Probably the second one because faking an injury is something that really irritates me. If I'm really hurt, I'll tell people I'm hurt, but if I just get pushed down, I'll get back up. Especially in professional soccer, they're all just actors and they throw themselves on the ground, and then when they get the foul they run around like nothing happened. That's definitely irritating.

Finding humor in sex

Well, I'm pretty sure that most of you out there reading this will agree, sex is pretty damn funny, right? Often it's funny because sometimes it's just awkward and embarrassing. The thing is, all those really embarrassing moments don't just happen to you, they happen to everybody, and nobody talks about it — unless of course, they're my friends. More importantly, most of those embarrassing occurrences are actually perfectly normal and therefore nothing to be ashamed of.

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS



Kate
Prengaman

Let's start with the vagina. Now, there's a complicated body part. It has a whole range of moods and secrets, and just when you think you've got it figured out, it pulls something weird and gets you all embarrassed. Like the queef, for example. Don't get concerned if you've never heard of it, neither has my spell check, but a queef is the official term for air that is released from the vagina after intercourse, commonly referred to as vaginal farts. Although actually farting should always be avoided during sexual activity and deserves an embarrassing stigma, queefs are often unavoidable. During sex, the thrusting can push air into the vagina, particularly in from-behind positions, but it's possible in all positions. A few minutes afterward, this air will be released, often with an amusing noise. So giggling is fine, but don't worry, it's totally normal.

Second on the vaginal surprises list is female ejaculation. It may come as a surprise to many, but women are capable of ejaculating during sex as well. Fluid can be released from the paraurethral glands during orgasms from G-spot type stimulation. Although this fluid also uses the urethra, it is not urine, but instead a substance similar to male ejaculate ... minus the sperm, of course. Reports vary as to how much fluid is released and how often. For some women it is frequently, others, never. For women approaching a G-spot orgasm, they might feel like they have to pee, but actually peeing is pretty rare. Instead, the orgasm might cause some ejaculation, which is perfectly normal, and probably a sign of a pretty damn good orgasm too, so there's no reason to get embarrassed about it.

Also, as we all hopefully already knew, women aren't the only ones who ejaculate. But just because most men have had more practice with it doesn't mean they don't have their share of embarrassing moments as well. For many men, premature ejaculation or very little sexual endurance before orgasm can be very awkward, especially with a new partner. If it's only



an occasional thing, that's pretty normal; it happens to everybody sometimes. Sure, it sucks to feel like a disappointment if it's the first time with a girl, but just tell her it was because she was so good, and in a few minutes you'd love to give it another go. If you aren't embarrassed about it, she won't be.

Other things have the power to embarrass both sexes equally. For example, there's always the really awkward question: "So, do you, ya know, have anything ... ya know, I should be worried about?" or, "Have you been tested for STIs recently?" But, don't be embarrassed about asking. You need to ask; they probably wanted to ask also, but felt too awkward about it. This is the one time you absolutely should not let your embarrassment get in the way of protecting yourself. Then, step two, answer honestly. Please.

Other embarrassing, but very common, couple's problems include the really awkward situation where one partner wants to go further than the other. If the individual is a lady or a gentleman, he or she will ask before making the next move, but a refusal most of the time makes one or both people involved pretty embarrassed. However, it's better to ask casually than to just make the move and get shot down. In either case, remember that the rejection of further sexual activity isn't a rejection of you, just protection of their personal comfort zone. So get back to making out without making a big deal.

Lastly, one of the main reasons I wrote this column is to help people have a sense of humor about sex. Not just when you are reading about it, but also when you are having it. So, when something potentially embarrassing happens, if you can just laugh it off together, it saves everything. Strange stuff happens all the time. Condoms can slip off and get lost in there, your housemates might hear you and start banging on the door ... leg cramps, rug burn, penises bumped into a firmer-than-expected location and bent uncomfortably, and the keys to the handcuffs can get lost if you aren't careful. So remember that it's probably normal, laugh, and get back in action.

Kate Prengaman is the sex columnist for The Flat Hat. She writes (and writes) to forget her share of embarrassing sex moments.

APARTMENTS

FROM PAGE 8

"location, location, location," the choice is usually King and Queens Apartments.

"It's so close to campus," sophomore Alicia Murphy said. "I like being able to walk everywhere and not having to deal with parking before classes."

With it's kitschy, retro sign looming over the WaWa parking lot, King and Queens should be a familiar to site to most students at the College. Located just across Richmond Road from campus and within shouting distance of some of the College social scene's hottest spots, it may very well be the best location in town. Student tenants reported enjoying living wedged between the delis and student-leased party houses at 331 and 333 Richmond Road.

Location comes at a price, however.

"Having one bedroom stinks," Murphy said, referring to the single bedroom in each double-occupancy unit. "[The apartments] are so small and expensive."

King and Queens also requires a minimum 12-month lease (unlike Lawson, which offers a nine-month lease ideal for students), requiring many students to pay for three months worth of rent during the summer whether or not they will be living in the apartment. Property owner Gladys Victor does not allow tenants to sublet their apartment during this time or any other.

One former tenant of King and Queens, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, reported that she did not renew her lease because of Victor's behavior and treatment of student tenants. She described Victor as "nosey and mean."

Another student tenant described the owner as "a heinous bitch," but maintained "living here is fine."

Victor declined to speak to The Flat Hat and had not returned later phone calls to her office at press time.

For students willing to live over a mile away from campus, Berkeley Realty offers two complexes: Governor's Square and The Midlands.

"We thought it was more bang for the buck," sophomore Grant Driessen said. Driessen and his two roommates selected the over 1,000 square-foot, three bedroom apartment in Governor's Square after looking at several complexes.

"Well over half the students here are tenants," he said.

Both complexes offer rent that is comparable to campus housing rates but do not include utilities. Governor's Square apartments each have a fireplace and share a communal pool and tennis court. The two-story units at The Midlands include washers and dryers for an extra fee. Both complexes include outdoor space for each unit.

"We had heard these were the best ones," Driessen said of the Governor's Square apartments. "I like it a lot."



MAX FISHER • THE FLAT HAT

The Governor's Square complex includes a tennis court and pool.

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REVIEWS



Is Nicole doing a Renee?
See GOSSIP, page 12.

MALICK TAKES HISTORY TO BOLD, BRAVE ‘NEW WORLD’

BY BETH SUTHERLAND
THE FLAT HAT

Grumbling, some groups got up and left during the middle of it. When it was over, the audience literally burst into laughter. Sparse applause reverberated throughout the theater from those who couldn’t contain their enthusiasm for the fact that it had finally ended. As the unappreciative audience filed out, their indignant griping stood in sharp juxtaposition with the quiet credits passing timidly over the screen.

I stood alone in still and silent shock. It was one of the most beautiful movies I had ever seen. Director Terrence Malick offers no apologies for his completely unconventional “The New World.” Nor should he. It’s cinematic, but less a movie and more a poem — the quietest epic I’ve ever seen. In an entertainment culture that too heavily relies upon formulaic melodrama and shock value, it is refreshing and spiritually gratifying to come across an introspective film that forces its viewers to be still.

Truly enjoying the movie requires patience akin to that necessary for reading Walt Whitman. It’s a sort of inner quietude that the world’s noise has trained us to suppress. If you’re running through your grocery list and thinking about tomorrow’s classes when you go to see this film, you won’t enjoy it. It’s slow and sweeping, raw and romantic. There are very few action scenes, and no love scenes — they would only cheapen the subtle revelation of the characters’ souls.

And it’s not like there isn’t a huge amount of amazing acting going on. Though they never show the pinnacles of emotion the viewer knows exist, John Smith (Colin Farrell) and Pocahontas (newcomer Q’orianka Kilcher) create such tension as to make the viewer’s imagination the best supplier of the tale’s

more hidden aspects. The movie alternates between no music, classical music and a swelling score that conveys more mounting tension than melody.

Everything about the movie is completely atypical. Why? It is utter realism; we seldom get that from Hollywood. The actor’s physical imperfections and the sets’ dirtiness are celebrated as part of the image that Malick is striving for. There’s no artifice about it — and if there’s no melodrama, it’s because life doesn’t read like a Hollywood script. Like “The New World,” life is filled with awkward silences, pregnant pauses, unspoken words and meaningful glances. There is very little dialogue in the film. Most of the main characters’ thoughts are expressed via voice-overs meant to represent their inner, unshared thoughts. This technique is not new to Malick, who favored it in the critically acclaimed “The Thin Red Line.” The characters aren’t glorified legends of lore — they’re ordinary people thrust by destiny into a new world.

Another complaint critics have heaped upon Malick is his focus on nature versus actors. Though Farrell, Filcher, Christian Bale (as John Rolfe) and Christopher Plummer (as Captain Newport) all rave about their director, some of the minor actors complained about having so many of their scenes replaced by nature shots (Malick is notorious for re-crafting his movie through the editing process). But one can hardly blame his obsession with the beauty of Virginia. The shots are breathtaking. Though some could have done with less, all the scenery used is absolutely stunning. He doesn’t use any artificial lighting and shoots the film very much in the style of a documentary. This obviously doesn’t provide much gloss or glitz, but

[See ‘WORLD’ + page 12](#)



COURTESY PHOTO + NEW LINE CINEMA

Colin Farrell plays John Smith and newcomer Q’orianka Kilcher stars as Pocahontas in Terrence Malick’s “The New World.” Malick has directed only three films since debuting with 1973’s acclaimed “Badlands.”

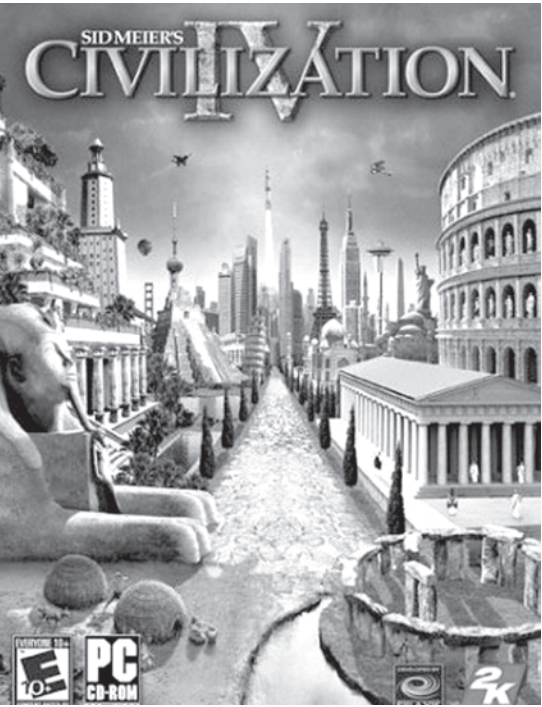
‘Civilization’ proves easily epic

BY WILLIAM ANGLE
THE FLAT HAT

In the videogame “Civilization IV,” the player takes control of a civilization at the dawn of history and must lead it to the year 2020. Along the way, he is responsible for controlling its government, culture, economy, religion and military. If he succeeds, he will earn a place in the Hall of Fame at the end; if he fails, rival civilizations will grind his civilization into the dust. At first glance, the sheer scope of the game seems overwhelming. And that’s after just reading the manual.

The game offers a helpful tutorial that instructs the player in every aspect of “Civilization IV.” Instead of showing a bustling empire when the tutorial starts, all that can be seen are two men with hatchets and the land surrounding them. These men represent a scouting party from the player’s new civilization. They stand head and shoulders above the rest of the terrain — even taller than the trees that appear in some places. The graphics are meant to represent concepts clearly, rather than to be in perfect scale. It accomplishes this well. Small rapids appear in rivers on the map, and the surf laps on the coast. When the scouts move to a new position, they run across the board.

At this point, a computer-generated version of the game’s designer appears onscreen and recommends using the scouts to find a place to build a city. He then instructs the player to end his turn. In



COURTESY PHOTO + 2K GAMES

“Civilization IV,” each player (whether human or computer) acts in turns, and there is no time limit to force a quick decision. The basic idea is very similar to backgammon, checkers or any other board game. This is one of the reasons “Civilization IV” is actually simpler to handle than many other games; it gives players time to think. Forty years in the game world will pass for each turn conducted at this early stage.

Building a city can be done with the click of a button. At that point, the city will then take on a life of its own. By zooming in on the game world, it is possible to see the individual buildings in the city. As time goes on, they will change on their own to reflect the changing nature of cities in world history. Each city will gather food from the surrounding area, build needed improvements and spread its own unique culture automatically. The only thing the player needs to do for any given city is to tell it what

to build next. Each possible building has different effects that can benefit a civilization. Some improve the social life in a city, while others help people to work more productively.

When it becomes necessary to fight off barbarians or wild animals, the player can use his units of soldiers in the exact same way as chess pieces. Moving a fighting unit into a square that contains an enemy will cause the computer to zoom in to watch the fight. The fights are completely gore-free;

[See EPIC + page 12](#)

Sinfonicron’s ‘Ragtime’ rollicks

BY ERICA PARKER
THE FLAT HAT

The poignant themes of “Ragtime,” a novel-based musical depicting the struggles of Victorian America, were inescapable in Sinfonicron Light Opera Company’s recent production, which finished its four-day run last Sunday. By telling the stories of three very different families whose disparate worlds eventually intertwine, the play demonstrated that despite today’s very different tempo, the music of the early 1900s still lingers. Modern elements of hope, injustice and awakening were all wrapped up in this timeless story about achieving the American dream.

With all these weighty topics and three colliding stories to tell, it is no wonder that the production lasted nearly three hours. The lengthy runtime, however, was not entirely forgivable.

Despite a catchy opening number, “Ragtime” started off on a shaky foot, with a slow and tangential build-up to what eventually became the core of the play. Several scenes could have been omitted without much harm, including ones centered on characters who contributed nothing to the actual plot.

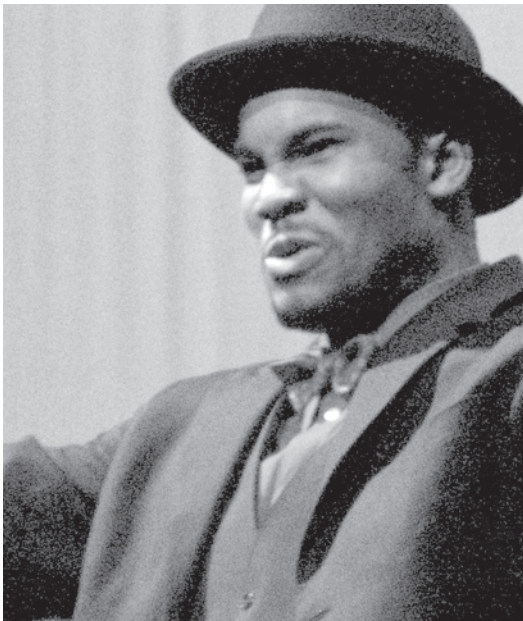
Even its taxing length, however, did not take away from the intensity of the play’s message. Director Sara Strehle, a senior at the College, said

in the program, “watching ‘Ragtime’ ... should feel like viewing America through the rotating lens of a kaleidoscope.” She achieved just that effect. Through the play’s alternating scenes, the audience saw the parallels between families in even the most divergent of situations.

Over the course of the play, a Jewish immigrant achieves the success of which he has dreamed, a

black couple becomes the target of ruthless discrimination and a white “Pleasantville”-type family rethinks its role in a changing society.

Senior Matthew Klein gave a solid performance as Tateh the immigrant, especially considering the accent he had to maintain while both speaking and singing. The character was most appealing in scenes with his young daughter; in a busy scene, however, Klein struggled to keep the audience’s attention — a problem due more



JONATHAN SEIDEN + THE FLAT HAT

Senior Devan Donaldson starred as Coalhouse.

to the exaggerated presence of non-speaking cast members than to Klein’s acting ability.

Senior Frank DiTrigalia and junior Colleen Schneider played the parents of the white suburban family. The characters are referred to only as “Father” and “Mother,” suggesting their (initially) inwardly-focused mindset. Schneider handled her many lines and songs admirably.

[See 'RAGTIME'+ page 12](#)

Sleek yet souless Japanese animation leaves columnist cold

CRITICAL CONDITION



Tristan Lejeune

Everyone has blind spots. Try as we might to keep an open mind and be omnivorous entertainment consumers, certain genres or subcategories are almost genetically fated to rub us the wrong way. I’ve never met anyone who could honestly say they love a little bit of everything. Most people over 50 have no ear for rap; few 15-year-olds can sit through an opera — that’s just the way it is. My personal palate is missing the taste buds for biographies (I prefer the specificity of memoirs), country music (sentimental whining sung the way people are classically taught not to sing) and that particular brand of animated movies and TV shows originating from the island of Japan.

I do not like Japanimation. I do not like it, Sam-I-Am. I do not like it here or there — I would not like it anywhere. From “Akira” to “Inuyasha,” with plenty of distaste left over for either format of “Cowboy Bebop,” my ani-mosity knows no bounds. I love plenty of Japanese films (“Rashomon,”

“The Mystery of Rambo”) and take pleasure in cartoons of both the Disney and “South Park” variety, but I’m also the only person I know who didn’t enjoy “Spirited Away,” and I don’t think that makes me wrong. Even the one where Strong Bad has a bean-shaped head and blue hair? That is exactly how I feel.

What is it I don’t like? Where to begin? In general, the reliance on visual flash over what we Westerners like to call the interior lives of characters. That’s a big one. Bigger still is the utter disregard for the traditional mountain-shaped narrative structure. Remember that from middle school? It’s that little chart that shows how “plots” build to something called a “climax” before they “resolve.” Except they don’t in anime. Anime wanders wretchedly from crisis to crisis, hoping that the biggest fight/boom noise/incredibly-opaque-yet-somehow-so-important-character-conflict coincides with the story’s end. And while we’re on the sub-

ject of explosions, the nuclear anxiety grows tedious too, particularly since it’s always surrounded by the most brain-dead Buddhist pedantic platitudes ever written on Hallmark cards from hell: “We are all one and one is all we. Love makes things sparkle. Tell Mom I said hi; Hirohito sends his best.”

Speaking of platitudes, there are of course exceptions to every rule, and I found the first of two to mine last year with “Howl’s Moving Castle.” I started it, as I start all anime, with my arms crossed across my chest, and I ended it, as I’ve never ended anime, on the edge of my seat. A truly enchanting film about a good-natured girl cursed with old age in a vaguely Victorian and blatantly magical land besot with war, this is surely the one that deserved the Oscar. “Howl” makes it look so easy for anime to have its head and heart in the right place that I can’t understand where the others go wrong. The anguished love has never felt so sincere, the imagery has never

been more sumptuous, the borrowing of Western thematic material (Alice, Dorothy, Icarus) has never seemed as natural. Hayao Miyazaki directed “Spirited” and “Princess Mononoke,” but it’s only now that I’m eager to see his next one.

The second exception to give me pause had an obvious edge on the competition: real people. “Casshern” is being billed as the first live-action anime, though about as much of the sets and backgrounds are real as they were in “Sin City” or “Sky Captain.” The tale it tells is one of post-war Eurasia toward the end of the 21st century when so much of the world is contaminated by chemical and nuclear weapons that stem cell research (they don’t call it that, but that’s what it is) is pretty much humanity’s last hope. A lightning-based accident leads to the Frankensteinian birthing of a whole new race from science’s grody primordial goo.

[See ANIME + page 12](#)



SINGLED OUT
Cat Power — “The Greatest”
From *The Greatest* LP

It’s Chan in chains as Ms. Marshall sways and swoons, wilts and wails through the achy-breaky-heartbreaking title track off her latest LP. “Once I wanted to be the greatest,” she groans, her backup singers fighting beat-down with upbeat “greatest, greatest”s. Think Nora Jones by way of rehab.

— *compiled by kyle meikle*

WCWM TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. *Multiply* — **Jamie Lidell**
2. *The Funky Side of Life* — **Sound Directions**
3. *Broken Social Scene* — **Broken Social Scene**
4. *Playing The Angel* — **Depeche Mode**
5. *Cripple Crow* — **Devendra Banhart**
6. *Apologies to the Queen Mary* — **Wolf Parade**
7. *Balkan Beat Box* — **Balkan Beat Box**
8. *I See No Stars* — **Cake on Cake**
9. *Strange Geometry* — **Clientele**
10. *Rehearsing My Choir* — **Fiery Furnaces**

HOLLYWOOD GOSSIP

Farrell fights sex tape

The search for the creepiness that is the Colin Farrell-Nicole Narain sex tape (need we mention the “breakfast, lunch and dinner” speech?) may get more difficult soon — the civil trial deciding the fate of the “New World” star and former Playboy model’s homemade romp is scheduled for July 17. That’s exactly one year from when Farrell filed for legal action against Narain for her alleged plans to release the footage; another judge already granted an order banning commercial release of the tape.



Living on a, like, a prayer

We may love the 80s, but sometimes the 80s hate each other, as evidenced by Jon Bon Jovi’s recent swipes at pop icon Madonna. The rocker was forced to apologize to Madge after accusing her of exploiting her kids by bringing them along to movie premieres. The “Dance Floor” diva quickly insisted that she had never brought her children, nine-year-old Lourdes and five-year-old Rocco, to a film opening (um, except the London premiere of “Harry Potter And The Goblet Of Fire”).



Braff and Moore an item

“Scrubs” stud Zach Braff and “How To Deal” hottie Mandy Moore made their bid for most innocuous couple ever this week when they went public with their romance after canoodling together at the Golden Globes. 31-year-old Braff (of “Garden State” fame) and the 21-year-old former pop tart have reportedly been seeing each other for a year; he was extra enthused when Moore guest starred on his hit NBC sitcom. The “Walk To Remember” star was formally linked to tennis hunk Andy Roddick.



Kidman going Urban?

Rumor has it “Bewitched” beauty Nicole Kidman will pull a Renee and Kenny (hopefully minus the divorce) when she ties the knot with country signer Keith Urban in March; the 37-year-old Oscar winner, who previously took a trip down the aisle on the Crazy Cruise in 1990, is reportedly planning an ornate ceremony for just a few close family members and friends. TomKat, not to be outdone, are aiming for a summer wedding.

— *compiled by kyle meikle*

WCWM 90.9 FM SPRING 2006 TENTATIVE PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE	SUNDAY Mid.-2 a.m.: James Chase Coleman “Freedom of Music” 2-4 p.m.: Anne Gessler “Music from Under Anne’s Bed” 4-6 p.m.: Mika Mason “Naive Melody” 6-8 p.m.: Matt Hoffman “The Electric Kool-aide Indie Test” 8-10 p.m.: Andy Smith “2 Hours of Awesome”	10 p.m. - Mid.: Matt Sherrill “On the Count of Twee”	John’s Hybrid Show” TUESDAY 4-6 p.m.: Roy Lenn “The Power of Suggestion” 6-8 p.m.: Clayton Carr “The Clayton and Dave Show” 8-Mid.: David Richards “Krad Radio”	Miller “Dr. Wurtzel-Baum’s Amazing Talking Machine!” 6-8 p.m.: Chris Elko “120 British Minutes” 8-10 p.m.: Steve Calder and Abbie Pugh 10-Mid.: Brian Kelley “Party O’Clock”	1-2 a.m. David Sievers “The Reagan Years” Noon-2 p.m.: Eric Van Orman 4-6 p.m.: Sammy Rogers “Sammy Sam’s Jammy Jams” 6-8 p.m.: Adam Burks “The Six O’Clock Hammer Party with Johnny Skruggs” 8-10 p.m.: Keyan Shahdi “Time Rotation” 10 p.m.-Mid.: Sean Fox	“12 Step Program or, Now Hear This!” FRIDAY 12-2 p.m.: Patrick Donaldson “Shakedown Street” 2-4 p.m.: Alex Leon “Radio Futura” 5 p.m.: Sandy Lesberg & Richael Faithful “Sandy Lesberg’s World” 6-8 p.m.: Brian Kelley “The Listening Session”	8-10 p.m.: Amy Shields “Get Ready to Live” 10-Mid.: Ian Grymes “Everything Hip-Hop”
		MONDAY 4-6 p.m.: Bohuslav Rattay “Colonial Classics” Mid.-2 AM: Matt Sherrill 6-8 p.m.: Rachel Scheer “Ray-list” 8-Mid: Chip Cotton & John Carriger “Chip &	WEDNESDAY 10-Noon: Emily Flowers “WCWM World Music” Noon -2 p.m.: Andrew	THURSDAY Mid.-1 a.m.: Josh Specht “Six Degrees of Separation.”			SATURDAY Mid. -2 a.m.: Russ Waddell “Late Night Full Plate” 10-Noon: Bret Coates “The Session” Noon-2 PM: Daryl Cameron “The Dog’s Bullocks”

‘WORLD’

FROM PAGE 11

it certainly adds to the feeling of realism. Virginia seems like a naked, infant land that the audience is seeing for the first time along with Smith. It’s as if we’ve dropped right into the middle of actual history and are watching it unobserved. Though its unconventionality may lose it an Oscar nod for best picture (unfortunately), it positively can’t be ignored for cinematography. Light beams and fallen logs never looked so good. Malick’s artful direction magnifies the beauty of nature and leans heavily on the raw romance of the land itself; he truly is a romantic, and the result is painfully beautiful.

ANIME

FROM PAGE 11

The new beings call themselves Neo-Sapiens and are of course the most dangerous enemies of all. It’s up to Tetsuya, reborn Casshern, a soldier killed in the war and brought back via aforesaid goo to save us all from the

Neos and their robot army. The usual anime problems are here in droves (see above re: nuclear anxiety and pedantic platitudes), but so are some of the most stunningly beautiful sequences and two or three of the more fun fights in recent memory. And what do you know, but real actors convey real emotions (Tetsuya has a silent scream to rival that of Mother Courage).

Regrettably there is no scheduled release date, so if you want to see “Casshern,” better do what I did and find a rental store with a good Asian distributor. See, that’s what I’m talking about with anime — you really have to look hard for the good stuff.

Tristan Lejeune is a Flat Hat Staff Writer. He likes fighting with words rather than giant robots.

EPIC

FROM PAGE 11

defeated units disappear from play. Depending on how strong the units are relative to each other, the game will decide a winner. The winning unit will then move into the square it was attacking. This system is largely intuitive. A group of spearmen is very likely to defeat a lone wolf, but has a very poor chance of beating that Sherman tank one square to its left.

Sound effects in “Civilization IV” are usually appropriate to the action. For instance, when workers are building a mine, the game plays back the sound of a pickaxe striking rocks. Soft background music plays for much of the game. The music changes to match the time period that the game is currently in and the actions that the player is

taking. Most of it is instrumental.

Rival civilizations all have leaders with distinct personalities and fairly strong artificial intelligence. Each leader is represented in-game by an entertaining computer-generated caricature of a real world leader from history. Julius Caesar, for instance, offers the player a salad. “Civilization IV” is not intended to be a seriously historical game, although it has elements of history. At the end of the game, it offers a ranking of the player’s leadership ability... on a scale of Augustus Caesar (good) to Dan Quayle (not so good).

It usually takes several hours of play to complete a game due to the sheer scope of the task; a well-developed loading and saving system allows the game to be put down and then resumed at any time. Indeed, the main criticism that can be leveled at “Civilization IV” is that it is entertaining enough to pose a serious risk of distracting a player for much longer than intended.

to help those outside his bubble-like world.

Unquestionably, the strength of the show lay in the relationship between Coalhouse Walker, Jr. and his lover Sarah, played by seniors Devan Donaldson and Jasmine Wilkins, respectively. Their soulful duets demanded the listener to enter their world and feel what they were feeling. The lyrics of their songs were powerful, but more than that, Donaldson and Wilkins each added vocal flourishes that conveyed deep emotion. Wilkins in particular managed to capture the ragtime feel through a staccato tempo and edgy tone.

Coalhouse and Sarah’s story ends in tragedy. Both are killed at the hands of over-eager (and presumably prejudiced) armed

police. Thankfully, supporting characters such as Grandfather (David Goldenberg, ’05), his young grandson Edgar (Michael Shield), and the airy Evelyn Nesbit (junior Amy Haldeman) helped balance the play through crowd-pleasing lines delivered with excellent comedic timing.

The play was bogged down by its runtime, and at times its kaleidoscopic nature left one dizzy, but in the end, these problems could be overlooked. For the most part, “Ragtime” lived up to the Sinfonicon reputation for excellence. To the cast and crew’s credit, the musical’s well-stressed theme is not easily forgotten; despite the most disheartening of circumstances, hope always remains.

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SPORTS



Take a look at all the sports we didn't cover. See RACKET, page 14.

Men's, women's tennis ace start-of-season matches with huge wins

By Jeff Dooley
Flat Hat Staff Writer

The men's and women's tennis teams both scored huge victories this past weekend to start their seasons off on solid ground.

The men's team defeated Winthrop University and the University of Richmond Saturday, both by a score of 6-1. The women's team routed the U.S. Air Force Academy 7-0.

The men's victory over Winthrop, which took place at the Tribe's own McCormack-Nagelsen Tennis Center, was particularly impressive considering that Winthrop played in the NCAA tournament last year.

The Tribe, ranked 65th in the nation, dominated Winthrop, winning five of their six singles matches and all three of their doubles matches. Senior Stephen Ward, a singles player ranked 57th in the nation, won his match in straight sets, 6-2, 6-2. Sophomores Alex Cojanu and Matt Rubenstein and freshman Dominic Pagon all won their matches by scores of 6-3, 6-1. Freshman Alexander Zuck won his match by the score of 6-4, 4-6, 1-0 (10-4). Junior Colin O'Brien teamed up with Rubenstein, Ward with Pagon, and freshman Billy Mulligan with Cojanu to win all three of the team's doubles matches.

In the second half of Saturday's double header, the Tribe men's team rolled over Richmond by the same score of 6-1 en route to a 2-0 overall record. As they did against Winthrop, the Tribe won all their doubles matches and five of their six singles matches. O'Brien, Cojanu, Rubenstein, Pagon and Zuck

all scored victories in their singles matches. In doubles, the teams of O'Brien and Rubenstein, Pagon and Ward and Cojanu and Mulligan once again all scored victories.

The men's team has a tough road-trip ahead of them this weekend as they square off on the road against No. 73 Michigan State University tomorrow and No. 26 University of Notre Dame on Sunday.

The women's tennis team, ranked 20th, won their 18th consecutive season opener in dominating fashion with a 7-0 victory over Air Force.

Senior Megan Muth and junior Alex de Guzman got the ball rolling for the team, winning their doubles match 8-3. The freshmen combination of Emmy Fritz-Krockow and Barbara Zidek won their doubles match as well, as did junior Megan Moulton-Levy and freshman Katarina Zoricic, both teams winning by an 8-2 score.

Zoricic, ranked 50th in the nation as a singles player, started the winning dominance in the singles matches, winning hers in straight sets, 6-0, 6-1. Freshman Lauren Cash followed up with a straight set victory of her own, 6-1, 6-1. Senior Lingda Yang clinched the win for the Tribe with a 6-2, 6-1 score.

Moulton-Levy, ranked 11th in the nation in singles, kept the streak going with a 6-0, 6-3 win, which was followed by two more singles victories: a 6-2, 6-0 victory by freshman Klaudyna Kasztelaniec, and a 6-2, 4-6, 1-0 (10-2) win by Muth.

The Tribe women play at home tomorrow in a double-header against East Tennessee State University and West Virginia University.



SARAH GRAYCE • THE FLAT HAT
A Tribe player prepares to smash the ball in last Saturday's double-header against Winthrop University and the University of Richmond.

Men's gymnastics desecrates Temple

By Kristen Gaidish
The Flat Hat

The men's gymnastics team came from behind in their final two events to defeat Temple University in their home opener this past Sunday. The Tribe scored a 202.725 to edge

Look ahead

What: Shenandoah Open
Date: Feb. 4
Where: Harrisonburg, Va.
Time: 2 p.m.

out the Owls, who scored a 199.85. The two teams were separated by less than a point throughout the first four rotations, and the Tribe's final event, the high bar, made for a thrilling finish.

The Tribe also took six out of seven individual titles, taking the top spot on

every event but floor exercise. Two-time All-American and senior captain Ramon Jackson took first place on still rings, vault and parallel bars. Jackson is currently ranked second in the nation on rings and is poised for another All-American season.

Coming off an outstanding rookie season, sophomore Aaron Ingram looks to pick up right where he left off. Ingram won both the pommel horse and the all-around competition. Despite the fact that this was Ingram's first all-around competition of the year, his score of 49.85 places him in the top 10 of the nation.

In the final routine of the day, sophomore Dave Locke captured first on the high bar with an all-time personal best of 9.0. Locke's clutch performance sealed the win over Temple, and his score was nearly half a point higher than anyone else's in the competition.

Other noteworthy performances for the Tribe included the routines of several inexperienced underclassmen. Freshmen James Prim and Richard Pearson both had beautiful sets on the pommel horse to score 8.5 and 8.45, respectively. They had the second and third highest scores for the Tribe on this event. Another freshman, Jay Hilbun, had season-highs on vault, floor and high-bar, contributing to the College's total on each of these three events. Sophomore Andrew Hunt also had an outstanding day, placing fourth and third on parallel bars and high bar, respectively.

"It was remarkable to see how much we have improved from our first competition," Head Coach Cliff Gauthier said. "It was also very impressive to see some of the young guys step up and hit great routines under pressure."

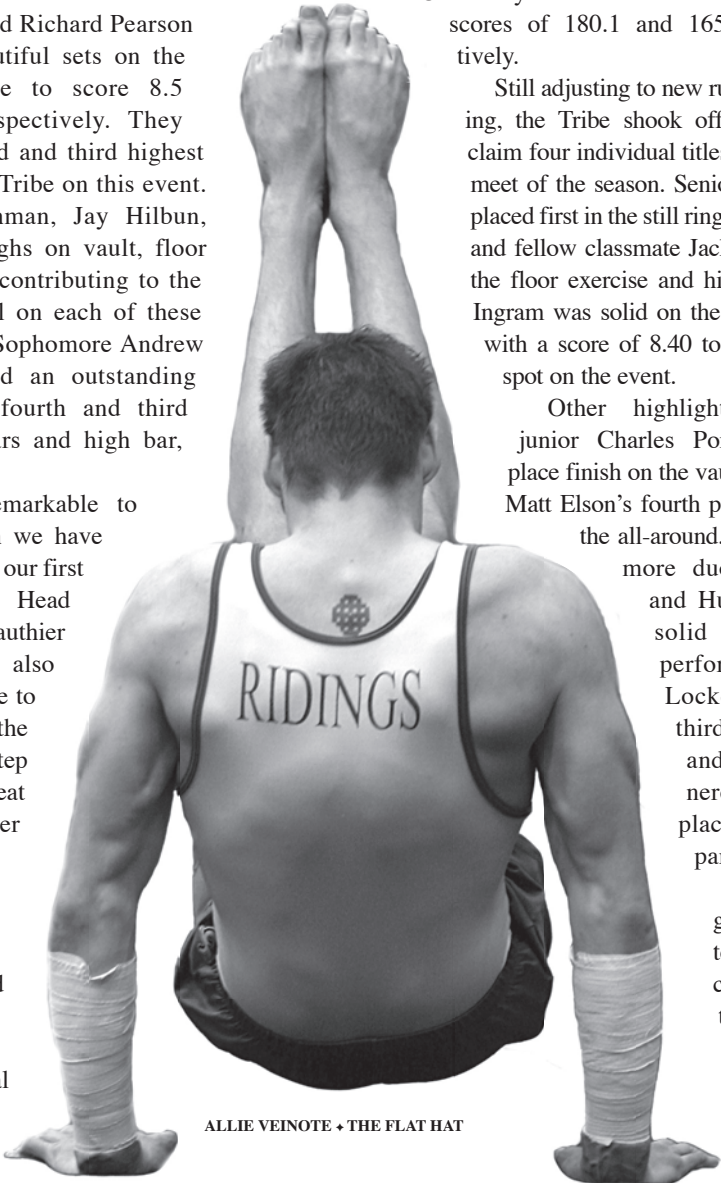
During the previous week, the team traveled to Annapolis to compete at the U.S. Naval Academy. The Tribe placed

second with a 195.3 behind Navy's 200.75. Springfield College and James Madison University finished third and fourth, with scores of 180.1 and 165.45, respectively.

Still adjusting to new rules and scoring, the Tribe shook off the dust to claim four individual titles in their first meet of the season. Senior Jeff Jackle placed first in the still rings with a 9.15, and fellow classmate Jackson claimed the floor exercise and high bar titles. Ingram was solid on the parallel bars with a score of 8.40 to take the top spot on the event.

Other highlights included junior Charles Portz's second place finish on the vault and senior Matt Elson's fourth place finish in the all-around. The sophomore duo of Locke and Hunt also had solid first meet performances, as Locke captured third on high bar and Hunt garnered a second place finish on parallel bars.

The men's gymnastics team resumes competition at the Shenandoah Open hosted by JMU Feb. 4 at 2 p.m.



ALLIE VEINOTE • THE FLAT HAT

Bryant's individual success pointless if Lakers don't succeed, too

FROM THE SIDELINES



CARL SIEGMUND

The biggest sports news this past weekend came on the hardwood, not the gridiron. Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant scored 81 points Sunday night against the Toronto Raptors. Kobe "Mr. 81" Bryant was just 19 points shy of the all-time single game scoring record of 100 set by Wilt Chamberlain in 1962. Last week, Bryant and ex-Laker teammate Miami Heat center Shaquille O'Neal exchanged pleasantries at midcourt with one another for the first time since Shaq left in the summer of 2004. All this begs the question: What has gotten into Bryant?

Bryant has always been the type of guy who plays with a chip on his shoulder. He always has something to prove or some doubter to quell. He is arguably the best player in basketball right now. In the talent department, he is every bit as good as Michael Jordan, who was hands down the greatest player ever to play the game. Unfortunately, Bryant lacks one key MJ trait.

After Jordan retired in 1998, sportswriters

and fans of the game of basketball desperately wanted to find an heir to his throne. The NBA was especially gung-ho on locating the next Jordan. MJ was adored by so many mainly because he was unselfish, had style and grace, was a media darling and portrayed the positive superstar image that the NBA was trying to market.

Bryant was chosen as the heir apparent years ago. Other names that have come up for nomination are Allen Iverson and LeBron James. James is only 21, so it's still hard to see what his future holds, but Iverson and Bryant will probably never take Jordan's throne. The main reason for this is that the selfish style of basketball they play prevents them from winning championships.

Coach Phil Jackson built the Chicago Bulls dynasty around Jordan in the 1990s. Jordan was a superstar, but he made the players around him better. The Bulls would not have won six NBA titles without role players like Scottie Pippen, Steve Kerr, Dennis Rodman and others. Jordan

brought a competitive winning attitude to the Bulls franchise. He worked hard to make sure others had a role in the team's success. His style of play helped the team, while Bryant does not make help his teammates improve. Sunday night he scored 81 points, but he had only two assists, because everyone else could only sit and watch.

Fast forward a decade and Coach Phil Jackson of the Los Angeles Lakers is finding it nearly impossible to repeat the success he had in Chicago. The Lakers have built their franchise around Bryant, but they will never win championships with Bryant as long as he continues to try to do everything by himself. Currently, the Lakers are a measly three games above .500. On most nights, Bryant's best is barely enough to help the Lakers win.

The Lakers won the NBA championship three years in a row with O'Neal and Bryant, but Jordan won six without another superstar. Bryant can't dethrone Jordan until he achieves team success as his team's leader. So far, he has only

achieved individual success as his team's leader.

Bryant, to his credit, is making strides in improving his image. A positive image is a prerequisite to inheriting Jordan's throne. On Martin Luther King Day, before the tip off of the Lakers-Heat game, O'Neal and Bryant met at midcourt and talked after having refused to acknowledge each other in previous games. The O'Neal-Bryant drama was real, and there was definitive, bitter animosity between the two when O'Neal left L.A. for Miami a couple of years ago. The fact that they have apparently settled their beef shows that both of them have grown and matured.

Bryant has the talent of Jordan, and he is working on reconstructing his image. Now, he needs to work on being a team player; then maybe he can set his sights on the MJ throne. Bryant's in the driver's seat. What move will he make next?

Carl Siegmund is the sports columnist for The Flat Hat. He's pretty sure he once saw Chuck Norris dunk on Kobe Bryant.

Teams plan ahead to avoid travel trip-ups

By Andrew Pike
Flat Hat Staff Writer

For College athletics, discipline drives successful road trips. This discipline starts long before any team departs Williamsburg and involves more people than just coaches and players.

"[The College] is really on a schedule, almost military-type time," Associate Athletic Director Frank Hardymon said.

As soon as each team's schedule is known, the athletic department begins contacting bus companies, airlines and hotels. According to Hardymon, it is vital for the College to initiate these contacts quickly in order to minimize missed class time, maximize athletic performance and keep costs low.

With \$951,688 dedicated to athletic travels this year, cost plays a large factor in determining how a team will travel and where they will stay. The commonwealth of Virginia has price ceilings for rooms and meals for athletic travel that limit the accommodations the College can make.

This year Tribe athletic teams are busing and flying to competitions in places as distant as San Francisco and as near as Newport News. The distance to competition sites and method of team travel can greatly affect the performance of Tribe athletes.

As a rule of thumb, bus travel over six hours is usually avoided because it negatively affects player performance; in some cases, however, the budget does not allow for air travel. Buses are the preferred method of travel economically speaking, but the more expensive air travel includes the benefit of less missed class time.

Women's basketball Head Coach Debbie Taylor described a recent smooth road trip involving air travel. Her staff and team flew direct from Newport News to Atlanta via AirTran to play Georgia State University. After defeating Georgia State, the Tribe flew back to Williamsburg that same night.

The College's affiliation with the Atlantic 10 Conference for football and the Colonial Athletic Association for all other sports allows bus travel to be utilized more than air travel.

"Our geographic location is central as far as missed class time and players not getting tired," Taylor said.

College teams competing in the CAA need only fly to three of 11 opponents. Of the 11 Tribe football opponents in the A-10, six would typically require air travel; however, the College plays only three of these teams each season, and rarely does the Tribe travel for all three games.

Limited travel is important for the football team because it is by far the most difficult team to accommodate. The average traveling entourage nears 80, including players, coaches and trainers.

"It's extremely challenging. Hotels have to have meeting space [and rooms] for around 80 people," Hardymon said.

For football, scheduling begins in earnest nine to 12 months before a season, when the Atlantic 10 Conference releases its schedule. A key element in choosing lodging is whether or not the hotel has accommodated football teams in the past.

"You feel much better going to a place that has experience with football teams," Hardymon said.

Nevertheless, cost remains the foremost variable of the traveling equation.

A challenge for cost-efficient traveling appears during post-season play. Teams do not receive much warning in regard to playing sites for postseason games and travel arrangements must be made hastily. The NCAA does reimburse schools for travel expenses during postseason play, provided that each school sends them full documentation of expenses. The College, however, still has to pay out of pocket and wait for reimbursement.

Constant throughout all teams in this process is discipline. It shows in the athletic offices as staff members assertively search for buses, flights and hotels and in the teams as coaches establish specific routines for travel.

On the road, coaches schedule meetings, film sessions, team meals and study halls as well as institute curfews in order to provide structure for their players.

"It's about structure and getting players in a routine. It's got to be disciplined," Taylor said.

This week in Tribe sports



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NICOLE SCHEER + THE FLAT HAT



Sports Calendar

Jan. 28 to Feb. 3

— compiled by louis malick

Saturday

- ♦ Tribe sports fans will be busy today, as men's basketball plays James Madison University at 2 p.m. in Kaplan Arena, while women's tennis plays East Tennessee State University at noon and West Virginia University at 4 p.m., both at the McCormack-Nagelsen Tennis Center.

Sunday

- ♦ Ready to witness some really cool moves? Women's gymnastics takes on George Washington University at 2 p.m. in W&M Hall.

Monday

- ♦ The badminton club has returned and will be practicing in Adair Gymnasium from 9 to 10:45 p.m., sharing the gym with the Tae Kwon Do and rock climbing clubs.

Tuesday

- ♦ Dust off that racket and join the tennis club for practice from 7 to 9 p.m.

Wednesday

- ♦ Men's ultimate frisbee will be practicing on Busch field from 7 to 8:45 p.m.

Thursday

- ♦ In case you missed Monday's practice, the badminton club will be practicing again in Adair Gymnasium from 9 to 10:45 p.m., this time sharing the gym with the Tae Kwon Do and Kendo clubs.

Friday

- ♦ A great way to tip off the weekend would be to watch as women's basketball challenges Hofstra University at Kaplan Arena at 7 p.m. If you're free during the day and have transportation, go see men's and women's track and field begin the two-day Vince Brown Invitational in Newport News.

Tor: The women's swimming and diving team competed against major rival University of North Carolina — Wilmington last Saturday. LEFT: Freshman guard Calvin Baker pushes past his Old Dominion University opponent. ABOVE: Sophomore forward Devin James crushes her Virginia Commonwealth University challenger. See Box Scores for more details.

BOX SCORES

Women's Gymnastics University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	L 184.350-191.425	Jan. 19
Men's Swimming and Diving University of North Carolina — Wilmington	L 116-17	Jan. 21
Women's Swimming and Diving University of North Carolina — Wilmington	L 140-160	Jan. 21
Women's Basketball Virginia Commonwealth University University of Delaware	W 55-52 W 73-62	Jan. 20 Jan. 22
Men's Basketball Virginia Commonwealth University Old Dominion University	L 60-69 L 56-65	Jan. 19 Jan. 21

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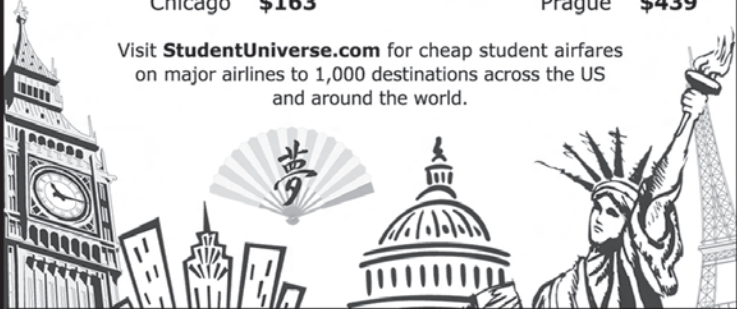
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